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THREE TRACTS
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ON THE

CORN-TRADE AND CORN-LAWS;

WITH

A REPORT from the Committee of the House
of Commons, appointed to consider of the Methods
practised in making FLOUR from WHEAT;

The PRICES thereof;

And how far it may be expedient to put the same
again under the Regulations of an ASSIZE.

L O N D O N:

Printed by Order of the COURT OF ALDERMEN,

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THREE TRACTS

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WITH



A REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
MUSEUM
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
IN
THE
YEAR
1851

AND
THE
MUSEUM
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
IN
THE
YEAR
1851

THE
MUSEUM
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
IN
THE
YEAR
1851

THREE TRACTS

ON THE

CORN-TRADE AND CORN-LAWS :

Viz.

1. A short Essay on the Corn-trade and the Corn-laws ; containing a general relation of the present method of carrying on the Corn-trade, and the Purport of the Laws relating thereto in this Kingdom ; first printed in 1758.
2. Considerations on the Laws relating to the Importation and Exportation of Corn, being an inquiry what alteration may be made in them for the benefit of the Public; written in the beginning of the year 1759.
3. A Collection of Papers relative to the Price, Exportation, and Importation of Corn ; with some Observations and Calculations, shewing what the Nation may be supposed to have gained by giving the Bounty on the Exportation, what the quantity of each sort of Corn annually Consumed, Exported, Imported, and Grown may amount to, and the Proportions they severally bear each to the other.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A SUPPLEMENT,

CONTAINING

Several Papers and Calculations, which tend to explain and confirm what is advanced in the foregoing Tracts.

REPRINTED FROM THE EDITION OF 1766.

THREE TRACTS

ON THE

CORN TRADE AND CORRELATIONS



A SUPPLEMENT

A SHORT
E S S A Y
ON THE
C O R N - T R A D E,
AND THE
C O R N - L A W S.

CONTAINING

A general Relation of the present Method of carrying
on the Corn-trade, and the Purport of the Laws
relating thereto in this Kingdom.

FIRST PRINTED IN M D C C L V I I I.

A SHORT

Y A S S E

ON THE

CORN - TRADE

AND THE

CORN-LAWS.

CONTAINING

A general Relation of the present Method of carrying
on the Corn-trade, and the Burden of the Laws
relating thereto in this Kingdom.

FIRST PRINTED IN 1704.

T H E
P R E F A C E *.

IT may justly be questioned, whether many of the late Writers, who have communicated their thoughts to the Public concerning the Corn-trade, have not considered the affair in too restrained a light; as also whether the alterations they propose in the method of carrying on this Trade, and the amendments they would make in the Laws relating thereto, would suit any other than particular Places.

It is a quite different thing to make Laws for the regulation of Trade in one particular Town, and to make Laws for regulating so considerable a Trade as that of Corn is throughout so large a Kingdom as this of *Great Britain*; which must be acknowledged by all, who consider how much the annual produce in many places falls short of the general consumption of the inhabitants, whilst in others it exceeds it.

These considerations have given rise to the following Essay; wherein is laid down a general, but fair relation, in what method the Corn-trade is at present carried on in these kingdoms; together with the Laws relating thereto: and till the nature and method of carrying on this business in general is well understood, it is hardly possible to make Laws for its regulation with any probability of Success.

* This is verbatim as in 1758.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the edition of 1776 some paragraphs were added, which are marked thus †; the list of the Statutes was continued to 1766, several notes, references, and a table of contents were added; and the whole was then revised and corrected by the Author.

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 it being higher, by two or three pounds in a bushel.

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 continued the same, and was not so low as 1s. 6d.

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ALTHOUGH it be the general opinion,
 that the present dearthness of Corn arises principally
 from the Avarice of the Farmers and Iniquity of the
 Factors, Merchants, Millers, Bakers, and Dealers
 in Corn; yet there is cause to believe, that it arises
 chiefly, if not wholly, from a real scarcity, occa-
 sioned by the short crops, which for three or four
 years past have been in the west and north-west parts
 of the kingdom, and from the general shortness of
 the crop throughout the whole kingdom in the year
 1756. For, supposing the crop of the last year 1757
 to have been as good as the fine prospect in the field

promised, which there is reason to doubt, much of it being lighter, by two or three pounds in a Bushel, than in fine years, from the Blight or Mildew brought on by the dry weather, it would not be sufficient to reduce the Price much, or soon, as little or no old Stock was left remaining, and of course a much larger quantity of this year's growth must be already consumed than is usual at this Time of the year. To confirm these observations, if we recur to former Times, we shall find that in the year 1693 Wheat rose from 2l. 6s. to 3l. 7s. per quarter, and was not much under that price, except in 1695, when it was 2l. 13s. till 1700, when it came down to 40s. In 1709, Wheat rose from 2l. 1s. 6d. to 3l. 18s. 6d. at which Price, within sixpence, it continued the next year, and was not so low as 40s. till 1718. In 1740, Wheat rose to 2l. 15s. from 1l. 17s. 6d. and though the clamour was at that time as much against Farmers, &c. as it now is, and the harvest of 1741 was good, both as to quantity and quality, yet Wheat was at 2l. 7s. throughout that year; though in 1742 it came down to 1l. 12s. and after that continued declining, and was cheap to 1745.

But, how reasonable soever this may seem, yet it must be owned that the general opinion, even amongst many persons of rank and character, appears to be on the opposite side of the question. The dearth of Corn is felt; and, how to bring the Corn-trade under such regulations for the future as

to

to prevent the like distress hereafter, is under the consideration of the Parliament. And we may justly expect, from the integrity and abilities of the honourable persons to whom this affair is committed, that the business of the Corn-trade will be thoroughly examined, from the first throwing of the seed into the ground, to the Consumption of the product in bread and drink, or the Exportation of such part of it as may at any time be conveniently spared; as also that the several Laws which, since *Edward VI.* have been made in relation thereto, with the good or bad effects they have had, and wherein and why the expectations of them have been answered or failed, will be carefully enquired into and examined, and the Laws themselves in consequence thereof be either confirmed or amended*.

Corn is to be considered both as a Food and Merchandise. The providing it either by growing or importing, its preservation for use or sale, the preparation of it for Food by grinding and baking, the fixing, or rather declaring, the price of bread, and what weight the same should be of according to the price of Corn, are particulars which have at all times, and in all places, been more or less the care of the Legislature, and fallen under the direction of the *Civil Magistrate*†. The Parliaments of this kingdom, as appears by the Statute-book, have fre-

* No alteration was made.

† See an account of the care taken in most civilized nations, &c. by the Rev. *Rich. Onely*, fold by *H. Watkins*, 1758.

quently had this matter under their consideration, and generally treated it in the view we have mentioned above, both as food and *Merchandise* *. In almost every Statute, which attempts any regulation in this Trade, we may visibly discern they have endeavoured to order it so, that, while they were guarding against any thing which might tend to distress the poor, Tillage should not be discouraged. To this End they have generally fixed the prices at which all persons might buy and lay up Corn, or export it; and seem to have endeavoured, by all possible means, to make the People see it in the same light; having in the space of seventy-nine years, beginning with 1548, the 5th of *Edward VI.* and ending with 1627, the 3d of *Charles I.* passed eight several Acts, as may be seen in the list at the end of this treatise, in which they have encreased the Exportation-price, from 6s 8d. equal to 20s. of our Money, to 32s. the quarter. How this Trade was managed during the Civil War doth not appear. But on the Restoration, in 1660, the Exportation-price was immediately set at 40s. the quarter. In 1663, only three years after, it was carried to 48s. By this law, it was enacted, that, when Wheat doth not exceed that price, all and every person may buy, lay up, and keep the same, and sell it again, under such regulations as by the

* The Author of *Les Intérêts de la France* thinks it was never seen in this light till 1660, see Supp. chap. 2. sec. 3. but the Statutes prove the contrary.

said Act are laid down: which Act appears to have answered the intentions of the Legislature, as Wheat, which for 20 years before, viz. from 1646 to 1666, had been on the average 2l. 17s. 5d. per quarter, was for 20 years after, viz. from 1666 to 1686 only 2l. 6s. 3d. per quarter on the average: and this was a virtual repeal of the Acts 5th and 6 of *Edward VI.* and 5 *Elizabeth*, so far at least as they regard Licencing till Wheat is 48s. for, doubtless, upon passing this Act, many engaged in the Corn-trade who were not qualified to take out Licences by the former Statutes, and if at any time it happened that, out of or between the quarter-sessions, Wheat came to exceed 48s. when none could be licensed, it could not be supposed that all buying and selling Corn should cease till Licences could be granted; nor would it be right to oblige such as were not qualified*, to take Licences by the former acts, and yet had legally, while Wheat was under 48s. by the authority and under the protection of this act, engaged their fortunes in this trade, immediately to leave off; and where would others be found, who had sufficient knowledge, or were disposed and ready to enter into this trade, which any might again resume on the fall of the prices of Grain?

It might be the intent of the proposers or makers of this Law, 15 *Car. II.* to leave the Corn-trade,

* i. e. Is or hath been married, an householder, and thirty years of age. See Stat. 5 *El. c. 12. sec. 4 and 5.*

as it hath in effect been ever since, *free and open**; and so much did the desire of making Corn a Merchandise then prevail, that in the year 1670 an act was passed allowing Wheat to be exported even after it exceeded 48s. paying the Custom; from which Time till 1688 the average-price of Wheat was 2l. 6s. a quarter; in which year, nevertheless, an act was passed, repealing all custom, and giving a Bounty of 6s. per quarter on exportation†, till it should exceed 48s. the quarter; after which, till 1693, Wheat on the average, was 36s. 3d. per quarter only; but, growing and continuing dearer till 1698, the Exportation was forbid for one year, and then, for 9 months, the Bounty was suspended; from the expiration of which term, till 1709, Wheat continued cheap, the average price being 1l. 14s. 5d. per quarter; but in that year it rose to 3l. 18s. 6d. per quarter, and exportation was again prohibited for one year; yet Wheat was never under 40s. till 1718; from which time, till 1725, it continued under that price; from 1725 to 1730 it was on the average 2l. 7s. 8d. and in the Year 1729 an act was passed regarding the Importation, as also in 1732, and the method of enquiring into the price, in order to fix the duty on Importation, was settled. From 1729 to 1740 the price was 1l. 15s. 7d. per quarter; in which year the price

* See Supp. ch. 2. sec. 8. how free and open the French have laid the Corn-trade with them.

† In English Ships.

was 2*l.* 15*s.* and the Exportation again prohibited for one year. It continued at 2*l.* 7*s.* the following year, but thence to 1756 the price was 1*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* In the latter end of that year, and the beginning of 1757, growing excessive dear, and great disturbances arising under pretence of the high price, the parliament again took the affair into consideration, and passed one act to stop the *Distillery**, another to prohibit for a year the *Exportation*†, and a third to allow the *Importation* Duty-free for a time certain‡; in all which acts, such necessary clauses were inserted as prove they never forgot or intended to oppress the Farmer, whilst they endeavoured to relieve the Poor. But Corn is still dear, and the discontent near the same, and how far the Farmer, and others concerned in the Corn-trade, are or may be the cause thereof, and guilty of ill practices, or whether all or any of them are in fault, or in any degree to blame, may in some measure be determined by reflecting on the nature of that Trade, and the manner in which each branch thereof is transacted, and the means made use of with us to provide, preserve, and prepare Corn for Food; and perhaps what follows may be of some use to that end.

* 30 G. 2. c. 10. which was by several other acts continued to 21 Ap. 1769.

† 30 G. 2. c. 1. continued to 25 Mar. 1759.

‡ 30 G. 2. c. 7. to the 24 Aug. 1757.

not In regard to the procuring a sufficient Provision of our own Growth, or by Importation; the Legislature seems to have taken the following care.

First, as much as possible by encouraging the Farmer to till so much land, that our own Growth may be sufficient; and, in case it should exceed the consumption, by making provision for a bounty to be paid in order to export the surplus; whereby the Farmer's fears of loss, in that case, are removed, or rather prevented.

Secondly, by a law empowering the Magistrates every six or three months to allow of the importation for six or three months to come, on a very moderate duty, after Wheat exceeds 53s. 4d. the quarter, and by the late act, for a time certain, duty-free; in all which, as was before observed, the interest of the Farmer was remembered as well as the necessities of the Poor.

And here it may not be amiss to consider more at large the circumstances, and general method of marketing, of our present Farmers, or Growers of Corn, and the Merchants, Factors, and others, concerned in this Trade.

Now, the Farmers may be divided into four classes, viz. the poor Farmer, the Farmer in moderate circumstances, the Farmer in good circumstances, and the rich Farmer.

1. The poor Farmers, who are very numerous, with great difficulty and labour, and seldom without some credit, as well from the shopkeepers as their landlord,

landlord, are able to subsist themselves and families till after harvest, and their crops are generally all threshed, sold, and gone, before Christmas, or by the Time their lands are in order and the seed put into the ground for the next year's crop.

2. The Farmers in moderate circumstances, whose necessities, nevertheless, are such, that, as each Seed-time, every Quarter, and Fair, come round, they are obliged to raise money to defray the expence, pay rent, or buy in live stock, and if they have any Corn left in May they think themselves well off.

3. The Farmers in good circumstances, who generally have it in their power, after seeding their lands, paying rent, purchasing live stock, and paying all other expences through the year, to reserve a few loads of Wheat to sell in or after harvest, in order to bear the expence thereof, and in expectation, if the Season should prove bad, to make a better price than before harvest.

4. The rich Farmers, who are in a capacity, as to Fortune, to keep the whole or the greatest part of their Crops the year over, speculate on the markets, thresh out and sell when they like the price. These in some measure serve at their own private expence the same purpose as public Magazines, and without many ill Consequences which might attend such *Magazines* *, keeping a quantity of Corn al-

* See Supp. ch. the first throughout.

ways in the nation, and the Markets from being unreasonably dear; and, whatever may be thought, these men scarcely ever have it in their power, however in their will, to distress the Poor; for, their numbers are but small, comparatively speaking, and the waste made by vermin makes their expence in keeping it very great, and frequently forces them to market sooner than they might otherwise intend to go!

The next thing to be considered, is the PRESERVATION of Corn when grown, both for use and sale, and, in this, regard is to be had both to quantity and quality. Such quantity should be always in the nation as will be sufficient for the consumption of the current year, and also to supply any accidental deficiency in the Crop; and this must be kept either in public Magazines or private hands. How far the Farmers keep, or can keep, may be observed from the account of their usual method of Trade, as before related, from which it may be gathered that the sale in the fore part of the year, or immediately after harvest, is more than the consumption; and if the excess is not then laid up in Granaries, the same would be in all probability exported, and Corn before the next harvest become scarce, and consequently dear.*

But this is provided for and prevented by *bonne ordonnance* which *consiste* in *la vente* of the Corn in the town of Berne, and our forefathers have sometimes bought their own Corn again; and the People of Berne at this day, notwithstanding their Magazines, are often reduced to the same necessity. See the Avoyer's letter, supp. chap. the first.

act 15 Car. II. which enables, nor impowers, all Persons to buy, and lay it up; in consequence of which many subsist by storing up this excess at their own risk, and the Public, or Legislature, have seldom any necessity to take any care about it, and were never yet, at least since this act passed, obliged to form Magazines, which, if ever they should be obliged to do, might become a very great discouragement to tillage, and the Corn-trade, and in the end make Corn dearer than before; as the Farmer, seeing large quantities collected together in one view, might imagine Corn would never bear a price for the future, and the fear of the market being spoiled by the Magazines being opened would prevent all private persons from keeping a sufficient quantity by them to carry on their business with profit, and consequently the Trade would decline, or be in a manner left off, which might be attended with many other ill consequences, at present impossible to be known or foreseen. Neither can that care be taken to preserve the Corn from corruption, decay, or being diminished or destroyed by vermin, in such public Magazines as in private Hands, and consequently the goodness of the quality cannot be so well preserved; for they will seldom be emptied more than once a year, and all, who know the Corn-trade, know how difficult it is in this climate to preserve Corn sweet, after it is out of the straw, for the whole year round.

But, in private Hands, though the quantity may be, and generally is, as large as it would be in public Magazines,

Magazines, yet it is always circulating, by many shifted once a month, and by scarcely any less than three times a year; in consequence of which the Corn hath no time to decay, and the vermin, such as Rats and Mice, are too well watched to be permitted to destroy it; for, was the private trader to suffer them to make much waste, or the good quality of but a small part of what he circulates in the year to be spoiled, by the natural decay of the Corn, which is very apt to heat, and thereby introduce an innumerable army of Worms or Weavils, it might bid fair to wipe off all his profits for that time.

The PREPARATION of the Corn for Food, by grinding and baking, is the next consideration; in regard to both which our Parliaments have very properly and judiciously interfered; where Corn is ground for hire, punishing the Miller if he takes more than his just due for toll, though the grinding being now in most Places paid for in money; these Laws are but little known; and, where Bread is baked for sale, fixing the assize, or weight of the penny and other loaves, according to the price of the Grain, Meal, or Flour, of which the same is made, having regard to the sort or fineness of the bread, by which the Poor are, or ought to be, satisfied; that the Baker hath only a reasonable Allowance; and he hath no right to expect more, and if he attempts any fraud the Magistrate has it in his Power to punish him for the same.

It

It were hard to say, which of these Trades lies under the worst imputations at present; some of them are of a serious nature, many trifling, and many contrary to common sense. What truth there is in any of them, doubtless, the Parliament will enquire, and cause those to be properly punished who have offended against any Law now in being, and provide such *Laws* * as may seem proper to prevent such malpractices in both Trades for the future as the present Laws will not reach.

What has been already said might serve to give a general idea of the Corn-trade; yet it may not be improper to be a little more particular in regard to the method in which it is carried on by Merchants and Factors, Meal-men and Meal-factors, Millers and Bakers.

Now, Corn may be considered as a Merchandise, not only in regard of the Exportation to, and Importation of it from, foreign parts, but also in regard to the buying and transporting it from one part of the same Kingdom to another; since in many parts much more is grown than the inhabitants can consume, and in many others enough is not grown for the use of the people; and Merchants and Factors are employed in this business, either buying on their own accounts, or by commission, as opportunity offers.

* An act for regulating the Bakers, &c. was passed, viz. 31 G. 2. c. 9. but this chiefly respecting only places where the Assize shall be set; another act, viz. 3 G. 3. c. xi. was passed to regulate them where the Assize shall not be set.

And

And this must always have been the case, as the members of Cities and large Towns, being employed about other affairs, and often at a great distance from the growing Counties, can neither have had leisure nor opportunity to fetch it themselves; and those Purveyors, Laders, Badgers, Kidders, and Carriers, mentioned in the old Statutes, must have been men employed in the same sort of Business as our present Merchants and Factors are; nor was the Statute, 5 and 6 *Edward VI.* made to give rise to, but to regulate, their method of Trade, some evil practices having crept in among them, which were rather increased by that Law than removed, as appears by 5 *Eliz.* All which regulations seem to have been rendered useless, or rather repealed by Statute 15 *Car. II.* as was before observed, and the Corn-trade left in a manner free.

It is not to be supposed that these Merchants and Factors are averse to large profits, or that they will not get what they can for their trouble; but their number seems too great for them ever to combine, by refusing to sell at reasonable prices, to oppress the People. For, as the commodity they deal in is perishable, should they ever have such thoughts, they might lose more by the Corn growing worse than gain by the contrivance, before they could attain their ends. I say not that it is impossible that attempts of this kind may be sometimes made in particular places, but then they will generally turn out to the loss of such Schemers, whilst the

post

post is regular, and the Corn-trade continues free; for, interest never sleeps, and every advance of price is quickly known to all dealers, and a desire of sharing in the profit will soon overstock the market.

Mealmen and Mealfactors are employed in Meal and Flour as Merchants and Factors are in Corn, and often have Mills of their own, though they sometimes hire; but in the last case the Miller is but a very inconsiderable person, barely living when Corn is in plenty round his mill, and at other times being greatly distressed: which hath been the reason that many of them, who could raise a capital, have engaged in the Meal and Flour Trades, adding to their old occupation those of Mealmen and Meal-factors.

Having mentioned the word Capital, it may not be improper to observe, that, to carry on every branch of the Corn and Flour trades, a much larger sum of money is required than may commonly be imagined, but will easily be believed, when it is remembered, that the whole is paid for in present money; and, though some part may be returned in a month, yet the whole, by those who have any considerable trade, is not returned more than three or four times in a year; and he that cannot in plentiful markets lay in a stock, but is obliged to buy in proportion to his sales in short markets, will find his trade turn out to little account.

The following general Calculation may serve to illustrate this still more. Suppose the whole number of the people to be six millions, and that they
each

each eat one quarter of Bread-corn yearly of thirty shillings value; that they each drink the produce of four bushels, in the same time, of the value of ten shillings; that the whole quantity of Oats, Beans, and other Corn, given to and consumed by Horses, Hogs, Oxen, other Cattle and Poultry, in the same time, is equal in number of quarters to half the quantity consumed in Bread only; each quarter of which may be valued on the average at sixteen shillings: And, lastly, suppose the annual quantity exported, though this seems most liable to be doubted, is equal in value to one-sixteenth part of the home consumption, and that the account stands thus viz.*

	Quarters	£	s.	d.
Bread Corn — — —	6,000,000 at 30s. —	9,000,000	0	0
Corn made into Drink —	3,000,000 at 20s. —	2,000,000	0	0
Oats, &c. for Cattle & Poultry	3,000,000 at 16s. —	2,400,000	0	0
Total of the Home Consumption, Value £.		14,400,000	0	0
Add the Value of $\frac{1}{16}$ thereof for the Export		£. 900,000	0	0
Total Value of Corn consumed and exported £.		15,300,000	0	0
Suppose the Money returned 4 Times a Year, $\frac{1}{4}$ is £.		3,825,000	0	0

Now let us consider, that, though some few concerned in the Export may have larger dealings, yet, he is reckoned no small Trader who returns one hundred quarters weekly, and multitudes do not return forty quarters in that time; and at the same time let us reflect on the number of persons who must be employed in the Corn-trade, to which may be added the Farmers and Growers, who probably are ten times more in number than the others, and

* See other calculations, supp. ch. 5. sec. 26.

It may then be easy to judge how far it may be likely they should all combine to enhance the price, more than the smallness of the quantity may require; as the least of them all, in such cases, who should sell through fear, necessity, or inclination, would break the knot. It is true, an opinion or prepossession that things are scarce may sometimes accidentally run through the body, and raise the *price**, but nothing but a real scarcity can support it; and though, perhaps, the steadiness in the price of Corn may be deemed a certain proof of its being in plenty; yet this steadiness may, in a great measure, be preserved, if not sometimes procured, by the Magistrates, as will be explained below.

And here it may not be amiss to take notice, how much the generality of people differ in opinion, in regard to the whole quantity *grown*†, and the proportion which the annual produce of Corn in this kingdom bears to the consumption, or rather what the latter bears to the former; it being very common to hear men of good capacities and understanding assert, that we commonly grow enough in one year to serve two, often three, nay some do not scruple to advance, that in one good year we grow enough to serve seven years. In some particular parishes this possibly may be true, but it is very far from being the case throughout the whole kingdom. Let us only suppose we grow enough to serve fifteen months.

* See Supp. ch. 2. sec. 16. † See Supp. ch. 5. sec. 26.

Now, to make the matter plain, we say, that in twelve months we consume twelve quarters, and we suppose, that the Export and Distiller together take off one quarter and half more, which is beyond the truth; in this case the whole, used and exported, will amount to thirteen months and a half, and we have one month and a half left; which will in ten years amount to twelve millions of quarters, and be worth as many pounds at least, even supposing our account in regard to the consumption as above to exceed the truth one sixth part. Now, we had ten as good years as ever were known in succession from 1741 to 1751; nay, if the common opinion is right, we have had sixteen. But where was the Corn seen in 1751? Or what is become of it now? Let us reflect on the appearance of stacks and fulness of barns after harvest in every year, and then say where such a quantity could lie concealed, either in the straw or out. It could not be hid. Corn, even when threshed, is a very bulky commodity, and requires much room to be properly preserved; and when it lately happened that a great quantity of Wheat was imported into *London* at once, which could not be above *forty** thousand quarters, the whole Importation not amounting to seventy, and the Merchants, who could not meet with sales, were

* The accounts having been since made up, it appears to have been 79,610 qrs. 7 b. and that the whole was 150,343 qrs. 2 b. but this argument will still hold good, 80,000 qrs. is but a small part of the whole annual consumption.

obliged to lay it up, they found it extremely difficult to get sufficient granaries for that purpose; and yet a Gentleman in appearance took the liberty to say, and that too in a public Inn, that, of his own knowledge, one Man had engrossed and laid up Wheat enough to serve the City of *London* and Suburbs three months; which is at least 150,000 quarters, and was worth at that time near £. 400,000. So apt are Men to talk freely of what they have so little knowledge.

The forementioned calculations are exclusive of the seed, which is at least equal to one tenth part of the growth, and, almost every year, whilst it is putting into the ground, occasions some small rise in the markets; and the mouths of the clamorous are then open against the Engrossers; but they don't consider, that, at that time, the demand is more than double to what it is at other times; neither need the quantity used for seed be taken notice of, when we consider how much more the annual produce is lessened by a failure in the Crop, of only one sixth part, than is taken off, on an average, by both Distiller and Exporter.

In the first calculation we supposed the quantity used by the Distiller to be comprehended in that used for drink, and in the same account the Export is reckoned at only one sixteenth of the consumption. In the last we reckoned both together to amount to one eighth of the consumption. Both these estimations were so made in order to give the greater face of probability to the argument.

Now, suppose the annual produce of an acre in common, besides seed for the next year, is three quarters of Wheat, and that one eighth, in common, is taken off by the Distiller and Exporter, that is, three bushels; and then suppose the Crops fall short one sixth part, amounting to four bushels; by this means there will be a diminution of one third more than the whole quantity taken off by the Distiller and Exporter, on the average, which, perhaps, may not have been enough considered.

Let us make one short reflection, and then return to our subject. The Exporter and Distiller, whether they take off one eighth, or only one sixteenth of the produce, are large customers, and give great encouragement to Tillage; for, whatever may be thought to the contrary, the quantity sown will ever bear a proportion to the demand; and if one eighth, or one sixteenth, of the demand is taken away, the Farmer finding his stock too large will contrive to lessen it, by growing less; as, on the contrary, he will endeavour to grow more when the demand increases; and for this reason, in dear years, the demand being, at least in appearance, increased, a much larger quantity is always sown; and, though this for the present still helps to increase the scarcity, it nevertheless makes provision for greater plenty the ensuing year. The quantity of Corn in plentiful years, exported and distilled*, may be compared to the

* If these reflections are right, neither Exporter or Distiller should be too much discouraged, and the Distiller, while spirits
are

the expences of a Man of fortune in diversions and amusements, for which he takes care to provide the proper funds, as well as for necessaries; but, these increasing, he is content to forego his pleasures, and applies what was provided for them to supply his wants, and by that means finds comfort, when otherwise he would have been in distress.

But to return to our subject.

The method in which Bakers carry on their trade is different, according to their different situations. Many, in Country-places, buy all in Corn, and have it ground, either on hire, or at Mills of their own: Some buy only part in Corn, and part in Flour, or Meal, as opportunity offers; whilst others buy all they use, in *London* more particularly, in Flour, of the Mealmen, or Mealfactors; and these last are most capable to make good bread for a constancy; for, the Mealmen buying larger quantities, and the Mealfactors having many sorts to sell, they scarcely ever use the Flour of one sort of Wheat alone; and the advantage this gives them is inconceivable; for, a number of sorts, judiciously mixed, by the mutual assistance of their different qualities, arising from the various soils on which they grow, will do much better than almost any one sort alone. Whereas the Baker, who buys Corn for himself, is always obliged

are used, should have the preference in point of policy; since, it is said, he pays sixteen shillings and upwards for liberty to use what the Exporter hath large sums for taking away.—Now by the act 33 G. II. c. 9. the duties on spirits are so increased as to amount to above *three pounds per quarter* on all Corn distilled.

to use what he hath bought, though his judgement may have deceived him in the buying, or the market may not have enabled him to provide himself with such in quality as he may have desired; or, having been bought good, it may be by accident debased in grinding, each of which circumstances will at different times be the case; and, when any of them happen to the Mealman, he will have better opportunities of helping himself, by selling the Meal for a coarser use.

When the Bakers have provided the Wheat, Meal, or Flour to make Bread, they are, or may be, bound to make it of such weight, or sell it at such price as the Magistrates shall order, who are authorised by Law to set the same, according to the price which the Grain, Meal, or Flour, whereof it is made, bears in the market, common or reasonable allowance being made them for their labour; and this power of the Magistrate, *discreetly exercised**, may be of great use in checking the too great fluctuations in the market.

Wheat must alter four shillings in the quarter for the price of the peck-loaf to vary *two-pence*†; and the price of the peck-loaf being generally between

* What is meant by *discreetly exercised* is explained farther in the paragraphs added to this edition, which are marked thus †.

† *Two-pence*, this, which was said of the old Assize-table, is also true of the table in 31 G. II. taking both sorts of Bread into the account; consequently these arguments still hold,

18 pence and 3 shillings, every such variation may be called $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or $\frac{1}{12}$ of the whole value, which is a great deal.

Now, suppose that Wheat should vary in one week eight shillings per quarter, it might be proper for the Magistrates to raise or lower the weight and price of bread, as if it had varied only four shillings; always remembering to balance the account, which they will scarcely miss an opportunity of doing within the space of three months, by giving the Baker, when he hath suffered, for the like time that he hath suffered, as much more than the common allowance as will make up the difference to him; and, on the contrary, taking from him when the public hath suffered.

It is true the table of Assize hath provided for an alteration of one penny the peck, which is two shillings in the quarter of Corn; in regard to which the Magistrates may sometimes proceed in a discretionary manner, as before hinted in regard to four shillings. But they will find it impossible, many times for a long while together, to raise and fall no more than one penny in the peck at a time; and it may sometimes happen, though it is presumed very seldom, that they will be obliged to vary more than two pence.

If, from any accidental glut in the market *, an extraordinary fall in the price should happen, and the

* See this farther explained in the additions marked †.

Magistrates should exercise their power with too much exactness in fixing the Affize of Bread, it may deter those who have goods, preparing or prepared, from bringing them to market, and make as sudden and considerable an alteration the other way, which it might be equally imprudent in them to follow in fixing the price of Bread, as it might tend to alarm the Farmer, and make him for a time withhold his Corn. Complaints against the Farmers for withholding in times of scarcity are never wanting, and yet our Parliaments have not, as we know of, thought proper to make any Laws to compel them to sell; for which doubtless they had good reasons. And Laws of this sort seem needless, since the Farmers in general are obliged to contrive the matter so, that their whole stock may be sold by harvest to make room for the growing Crop; and the returning demands they all, except a very few, have for money, cause some of them every market-day to sell some species of Corn or other, and thereby as regular and continual supply in general is found as could possibly be dealt out under the direction of any law. And, from some years observation, we are persuaded, that if the stock in the Farmers hands had been annually taken account of at *Christmas, Easter*, or any other time, nearly the same quantity of the Crop would have been found exhausted each year at the same time; and perhaps more would have been found exhausted, both in very plentiful and very scarce years, than in those of moderate plenty, In
the

the first case, more Corn must be sold to raise the like sum, and in the last, the increase of money seldom equals the shortness of the Crop, and many Farmers find their Barns empty before they have raised the necessary sums. But, let us suppose the Farmer in times of scarcity doth not bring his Corn to Market in due proportion according to the time of the year, it is possible, though he regards only himself, this conduct may be of public utility; for, was he to supply the Market in the beginning of the year with as much as in good years, too great a quantity might be *exported**, and famine stare us in the face before next harvest. It will be replied, a reasonable withholding may be right, but they always carry it to a wicked excess. We allow this case possible, but hardly probable. The hopes of gain are always attended by fears of loss; and fear being the stronger passion of the two, and backed, in regard to most of them, with their returning necessities, though some few may be carried by avarice so far as to withhold unreasonably, yet much the greater part, pressed by necessity, and urged by fear, will act otherwise; and, upon the whole, the quantity sold will be generally found, even in scarce times, in proportion to the time of the year; and though upon any accidental rise, as above observed, they may withhold for a time, they cannot continue to do it long, since, in a very short time, Corn will be brought from more distant parts, and spoil their sales.

* See note, page 18.

The power of the Magistrates, in regard to the Assize, seems *declaratory*, and, if they take care that the Baker hath, one time with another, the common, on reasonable allowance, and no more, neither the people nor he are injured; and, if the Magistrates can, in which however they should act upon good informations and with great caution, by sometimes giving more and sometimes less to the Baker, keep the Markets tolerably steady, the places where they preside will hardly ever fail of a regular supply; and perhaps cases may have happened within memory, which, upon reflection, may justify this way of thinking.

† When this pamphlet was written, it would not have been proper, on account of the prejudices which then prevailed, and the bad opinion to which almost all sorts of people were then worked up, by anonymous authors against the Farmers and Dealers in Corn; or decent, on account of the transactions having so lately passed, to have fully explained what was hinted at by the words *discreetly exercised*, page 30, the last paragraph, and the *cases* therein mentioned which was this.

† The Magistrates in London had, in the year 1757, been very strict, and it was thought much too hasty, in following every sinking in the price of Wheat and Flour, in setting the Assize of Bread; and some attempts were made to reduce the prices of Wheat and Flour, by setting the Assize of Bread lower than the returned prices of them would bear.

bear. The consequences of which management were exactly such as, it is herein before said, such proceedings, *on any accidental glut in the Market**, would produce. Such Mealmen as depended wholly, or chiefly, on the *London Market*, seeing they were to trade on a much greater uncertainty than common, or rather to a certain loss, proceeded with great caution, and were afraid to do their usual quantity of business: Large quantities of Corn and Flour, which were originally designed for that Market, never came there at all; but were carried where it was imagined they would turn to a better or at least a more certain account; and many loads of Flour were fetched out of *London* again: and so bare of that commodity was the City at one time; that application was made to the Lords† of the Privy Council for advice, *and it was proposed to their Lordships to put in execution the powers given by an act of 25 Henry VIII. to fix a price, at which Wheat and Flour shall be sold*‡, and some Factors and Mealmen were

* See Page 31.

† Their Lordships were told, "there was just ground to suspect a combination had been entered into to raise the price of Flour and Wheat, and that with this view many Mealmen have ordered their Factors not to sell the Flour consigned to them, and have actually carried great quantities of Flour and Wheat back into the country, in order to make a scarcity in the *London Market* which may raise the price."

‡ What is above observed in relation to the power of the Magistrate, in regard to Bread, will hold good as to every species of provision, and a French author gives us the following story,

were ordered to attend the 25 *Aug.* 1757, which they accordingly did, and were examined; after which, more regard being had to set the Affize of Bread according to the returned prices of Wheat and Flour, the affair was soon remedied; and the same having been continued ever since, with more regularity, the Markets have in general been well supplied.

† However, it was then found, from experience, that the power of the Magistrate in setting the Affize of Bread is in *fact*, as was before hinted, only declaratory, or saying at what prices, according to the returned value of the grain, &c. the Baker will have a reasonable living profit. It is true, where they lie under any difficulty to get a *true return*, they will be at a loss how to make such declaration with propriety: but this can only happen in small towns or villages; and in such places it is best not

story, which confirms what is here advanced, and is an account of the success of an attempt to make a regulation like that proposed to the Privy Council.

The ORDONNANCE of PHILIP THE FAIR, in *March* 1304, says, None, under pain of confiscation of their goods, shall sell the SETIER of the BEST WHEAT, Paris-measure, for more than forty *sols* Paris-money, and the SETIER of other inferior Corn in proportion, and of Beans and Barley at thirty *sols*, of Oats at twenty *sols*, Bran at ten *sols*, and other grain in proportion.

But, says my Author, this ORDONNANCE was made in a great scarcity, and it produced a most unhappy effect, in that it hindered the Markets from being supplied; and it was revoked some days after by another ORDONNANCE, dated at Paris in 1304, on *Palm-sunday*, in which PHILIP THE FAIR permits the sellers of Corn to get what price they can.

Essai sur les Monnoies, Paris, 1746, 4to. fo. 35. notes.

to set the Affize at all: more especially since the Statute of 3 Geo. III. cap. 9. brings the Bakers of Bread, particularly of that made of Wheat, under a tolerably good regulation in those places where Magistrates shall not think fit to set the Affize.

† But, as it would be proper in small Towns and Villages to omit, so in large Towns and Cities it will always be necessary to set, the Affize, in order to satisfy the people that the price which the Bakers demand is no more than what is thought reasonable by the Magistrates, and they have two rules by which they may judge if they have been mistaken or misled; that is, for any considerable time, accidental mistakes and impositions, as they are impossible to be avoided, are not here meant.

† First then, if they have been induced to set the Affize too high, or so as to give the Bakers too large an allowance, they will find *many** of them sell for less than they allow.

† And, secondly, if on the contrary they have been induced to set it too low, they will find as in the above case the Markets badly supplied.

The Affize-table|| seems to want some enlargements, no notice being therein taken what price

* *Many*—there are very frequently, or indeed generally, some who undersell; and it too often happens that they make themselves ample amends in the quality or quantity, and sometimes in both.

|| A new Affize-table was settled, and the Baking-trade regulated by Stat. 31 G. II. c. 9; many of which regulations were by 3 G. III. c. 11. extended to places where an Affize shall not be set.

Flour

Flour should be esteemed to bear in proportion to Wheat; and, when this is done, it might not be amiss to explain the method which should be taken in setting the Assize out of Corporations, which is now seldom done, and in many places neglected, only because the Law seems not explicit enough on that head; though it may require great care in appointing for what district the same should be set; possibly every HUNDRED may do; but, it seems, a certain distance round every Corporation; in regard to *London* it would be best if it were ten or twelve miles, should be obliged to follow the Assize set, and Orders made, by the Magistrate thereof; otherwise, as Bread may, and will, often be different in its price in the Town and its neighbourhood, a continual discontent, on account thereof, will be kept up amongst the poor, which may, by the foregoing method of making certain distances round Corporations follow the Assize thereof, be prevented, and that without departing from the rules of justice, since, one time with another, the neighbourhoods of Cities and great Towns are served much on the same terms as they are.

Thus have we in general considered the Corn-trade and Laws, endeavouring to shew in what methods the Trade is carried on, from the Farmer to the Consumer; and in what light it hath, or seems to have, been regarded by several Parliaments from *Ed. VI.* to this day, wherein we could not forbear to intermix a few reflections; and, if our account is generally

generally true, most of those who have written upon this subject have been mistaken; probably, from considering the Corn-trade and Laws as they regard or effect particular places, or parts of the Kingdom only; whereas all Laws, made for the use of the whole nation, should be considered in a more enlarged view.

It is not intended to insinuate, that the Corn-trade wants no regulation, or the Laws relating thereto no Explanation or Amendment, and that the Dealers in Corn are a sort of righteous Men, who want no restraint or looking after: All that is aimed at is only to shew, that this Trade is at present under better regulations, and the present Corn-laws, though they may want some amendments, much better adapted to the intended purpose, than is commonly imagined: and that, whatever may be the will of particular Persons, Providence, by the nature of the commodity, the large sums necessary, and the number of hands required to carry on this Trade, hath put it out of the power of the Corn-factors, and all others concerned therein, in any considerable degree to oppress the people, more especially whilst the present Laws are in force; and, we are fully persuaded, no better Laws in general for conducting this affair can be framed or delivered, how much soever, in particular instances, they may be improved. Let us reflect once more upon what they say.

To the Farmer:—Till your land, and fear not having so great a plenty as to be a burthen and loss to you,

you, for we will give a Bounty for the Exportation * of what can be spared.

To the People :—Be not uneasy at the Exportation of Corn; for, when it begins to grow dear, the Bounty shall cease *, and, when it is dear, it shall be imported at such a moderate and proper duty as, whilst it adds so little to the price ‡ as not to distress you, shall yet prevent so great a quantity being thrown in, as may deter our own Farmers from Tillage §, nay, even when it becomes necessary, it shall be imported Duty-free.

To

* 1 Wm. and M. c. 12. § Ann. c. 29.

‡ 15 Car. II. c. 7. 1 Ja. II. c. 19. 2 G. II. cap. 18. and 5 G. II. c. 12.

§ How far the Farmer may by Exportation, for which we give a Bounty, be prompted to till, or by the prohibition thereof generally, or absolutely, or by the fear of large Importations, be discouraged from Tillage, our Legislators know; and the following short piece of History, communicated to me by a Gentleman, who was an Eye-witness of the facts, may serve to shew their wisdom and foresight in making the Laws which are provided for that purpose.

In *Turkey*, the Grand Vizir, between twenty and thirty years ago, suffered a more general Exportation of Corn to be carried on, and more openly, than any of his Predecessors had done, insomuch that *three hundred French Vessels*, from twenty to two hundred Tons, were, on one day, seen to enter *Smyrna Bay* to load Corn, and Wheat was then sold for less than seventeen pence *English* a Bushel, with all the expences in putting the same on-board included.

From these open proceedings, the Janizaries and People took the alarm, pretended that all the Corn was going to be exported, and that they, in consequence, must be starved; and, in *Constantinople*, grew so mutinous, that they could not be appeased till the Vizir was strangled, and his body thrown out to them.

His

To the Corn Merchants, Factors, Mealmen, Meal-factors, and all concerned and employed in transporting Corn and Flour from the growing Counties, to such parts where the consumption exceeds the growth, and collecting it for Exportation when allowed.—Proceed freely in your business; for, if the false notions, which the populace may of themselves conceive, or wicked Men for bad purposes, or for want of better information, may possess themselves with, should make them interrupt you, and forcibly take away, or spoil your property, the PLACE *, where such interruption happens, shall pay the da-

His Successor took particular care not to split on the same rock, and would suffer no Exportation at all; many of the Farmers, who looked on the Exportation as their greatest demand, neglected Tillage to save their rents, which in that Country are paid either in kind or in proportion to their Crops, to such a degree, that in less than three years the same quantity of Corn, which, in time of Export, sold for not quite seventeen pence, was worth more than six shilling, and the distresses of the People in *Smyrna* were such, that every bakehouse, and Magazine of Corn, was obliged to have a military guard, which took care that no one Person should have more than a fixed quantity; and, so strictly was this Order observed, that an *English* ship in the *Turkey*-trade was detained from sailing some time for want of Bread.

The ill consequences of these proceedings were not removed in many years, and, to this day, the fate of the Vizir, as an unfortunate good Man, is lamented.

While we have a Parliament, we need not fear such ill consequences from the mistaken notions of the People, or the Farmer, but, within memory, the People, in more parts of *Great-Britain* than one, have proceeded to Extremities upon as mistaken principles as the People at *Constantinople* did in the case above related, and which, if they had not been timely checked, might have proved as much to their own disadvantage.

* 11 George II. c. 23.

mage, or those who do it shall be punished. But let not this promise of protection and recompence be so ill received, and ungratefully returned by you, as to induce you to endeavour to get an unreasonable Gain, and to oppress the Poor; for, in that case, we will set a price on your commodity †, and punish you, if you do not comply with our Orders; yet this shall be done, not by any inferior Magistrates, who by their connections may, however well they intend, be biased either for or against you, or for want of proper information may give improper Orders, but by the King's Privy Council, and great Officers of state, or any seven of them, of which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lord President, or Lord Privy Seal, shall be one, who being best apprised of what is fit to be done throughout the whole Realm, and in every part thereof, are, for that reason, the most capable to judge and the only proper Persons to be trusted in what is fit to be done in this affair.

In regard to the Bakers, it is true, we have trusted them to Magistrates of Corporations and Justices of the Peace, who have a clear rule for their conduct. But, while the Bakers act uprightly, they may proceed with the same freedom and safety as all others may in the carrying on their branch of the Corn-trade.

In this small compass may be seen a general view and purport of most of our Laws relating to the Corn-trade, except those regarding Malt, Markets,

† 25 Hen. VIII. c. 2.

and Measures, and which it might be possible to reduce, except the Baking-act, which seems necessary to be kept apart, into one plain act of Parliament; in which, though some amendments may be made, we are bold to say, the general PLAN cannot be improved.

Here a question naturally arises, how, and in what respects, can those amendments in our Corn-laws be made? To this, of myself I presume to say little, but what I have heard from some able Men, who seem to understand the affair, I shall take the liberty to put down.

Let the *Bounty* * on Wheat be reduced to 4s. per quarter, and on other Grain in proportion, and payable on Wheat to 40s. Rye to 26s. Barley and Malt to 20s. yet when they exceed these prices, and do not exceed the old Exportation-prices, let them be freely exported; and, when they exceed those prices, let Exportation cease, except to our own subjects abroad in our service, and the Garrisons in our Forts, and such as ought to be excepted, and then let Corn be imported at the present low duties, till it shall have risen, wheat to 54s. and other Grain in proportion; and, after that, duty-free, taking care not to make the Law so positive, but that the King, by the advice of his Council, when he shall think proper, though Corn shall be under the Exportation-prices, may forbid the Exportation of every or any

* See this stated at large in the Considerations of the Laws relating to the Importation and Exportation of Corn.

Species thereof, for a time to be limited: And, to prevent confusion, let the Justices of the peace, in each Quarter-sessions, and the Privy Council at all times, have power to enquire into the prices of Corn in each Port, and certify the same to the Customer thereof; and let such prices, as they shall certify, for three months after, be his guide, except, the King in Council shall order otherwise, in regard to paying the Bounty, permitting the Export without Bounty, stopping the Exportation, and permitting the Importation at the low Duty or Duty-free, the present method of obtaining the Bounty by affidavit, in regard to the Market-price, in all Ports where no such Certificate shall be in force, being still observed.

Two things, they pretend, ought to be taken especial Care of, viz. to guard against the Bounty being paid for Corn *not* exported, which they affirm formerly to have been the case, and to protect, at all times, Persons who may be engaged in carrying Corn, or Flour, from one part of the kingdom to another, that the whole may have, as near as may be, an equal share of the blessings of Providence; otherwise, whilst a Bounty may be paying in one place for the Exportation of Corn, another part of the Kingdom may almost suffer famine. So much for the general Laws about Corn.

As to the Laws about Malt, it would be needless to mention them here, since they, in their Execution, are under the Commissioners of Excise.

In

In regard to the Laws about Markets, they seem not full or explicit enough, or to be grown by the alterations of times in a manner usefefs, or rather impossible to be used; besides, the Statute 5 and 6 of *Edward VI.* as far as relates to *Westmoreland, Cumberland, Chester, Lancaster, and York*, and all foreign victuals imported, except Fish and Salt, is by 5 and 13 of *Elizabeth* altered, or repealed; by Statutes 21 of *James I.* and 3 of *Car. I.* till Wheat is 32s. any Person may buy it* in Market or out of Market; and by 15 of *Car. II.* this Act is farther altered, as hath been before observed.

A notion had some time prevailed, that buying Corn by *Sample* is *FORESTALLING*, and contrary to Law, which seems to be a mistake. The Statute of *Edward VI.* says so plainly what *Forestalling* is, that it may be wondered how such a notion could prevail. It is buying any thing *coming*, or making a bargain for any thing *coming*, before the *same* shall be in the Market, or persuading Persons *coming* to abstain. Now what hath this to do with Samples? In many places it is not practicable to bring all into the Market, or, if it were, would it be reasonable? Or

* And yet *Howell*, afterwards Clerk of the Council, in a Letter from *Rouen*, dated Sep. 7, 1619, says, " 'Tis true *England* hath a good Repute abroad for her Fertility, yet, be-
" our Harvests never so kindly, and our Crops never so plen-
" tiful, we have every year commonly some Grain from thence,
" (*France*) or from *Dantzic*, and other places imported by
" the Merchant." The alteration or different situation be-
" tween these times and those, in regard to our plenty, need not
" be mentioned.

could it ever be intended, that in such Towns, and many such there are, where from 500 to 2000 quarters are sold every Market-day, and whose inhabitants do not consume 2000 quarters of Bread-corn in a whole year, every part of the quantity sold should be pitched in the Market, after having been drawn many miles, and that, perhaps, through very bad roads, to be drawn afterwards possibly another way as many miles more, nay sometimes directly back again by the Farmer's own door, to be ground, or put on Ship-board, either for the use of distant parts of the Kingdom, or foreign parts.

There is a custom still retained in *London* which seems to explain this affair, and to have been at first introduced to prevent Forestalling; which is this, no Corn is permitted to be measured till a Sample is carried to the Lord Mayor, who is thereby not only apprized of its Arrival himself, but also of its *Fitness for Man's Use*, and hath, by his Crier, an opportunity to give notice to the whole City of its arrival, and then grants his permit to the person requesting to measure and take up his Corn, either for sale, or to put in Granaries.

REGRATING is selling *visuals*, in which Corn is included, bought in the same Market, or within four miles thereof, again, except to each Person for his Family, which, however, by Stat. 15 *Car. II.* may now be done after three months.

Now, however necessary it may be to prevent those who, knowing the particular sort of Corn that
their

their neighbours may want, or taking advantage of ignorant or idle People which come late to Market, engross what they can early in the morning, and then, out of *pure friendship*, spare it again on the same day; yet the general and strict execution of this clause would be hurtful; for, who would venture, in *London* more particularly, to buy and lay up any Corn when the Market is overstocked, if he was obliged, either not to sell it in the same Market again at all, or not till after three months? or how would that Market be supplied? most certainly very sparingly, where any the least surplus must either be laid up at the expence of the Importer, who generally wants the Money, or else sold for next to nothing. So sensible were our Legislators of this, that, when Corn is imported, if the importer cannot sell it but to loss, it may be re-exported to foreign parts, and great part of the duty will be returned:* and, if he takes care to report his ship for Exportation, and keep her without the Port, he may, if he dislikes the price, go to any other port of the Kingdom which otherwise he cannot.

INGROSSING of Corn is getting it into possession with intent to sell it again, except by persons properly qualified, or lawfully authorized, which every Man now is, till Wheat is 48s. by Statute 15 Car. II. in regard to which enough hath been said before.

In this, as was before observed in relation to the Corn-laws, it is not intended to insinuate, that no

* See Book of Rates, title CORN.

Laws can be enacted for the better regulation of the Markets; for, there certainly may, but only to shew, at least, that we think that the old Laws could not have the intention, in their first institution, which some Men may imagine; and that, till every Market in the Kingdom is exactly, or at least nearly, in the same circumstances, or the growth of Corn is nearly the same throughout the whole Nation, no one general Law seems possible to be made, which will properly, at all times and in all cases, regulate them all; yet it may be presumed, that, upon application from any particular Place, the Parliament would pass a temporary act to regulate their markets, and their experience might be of great use in serving to shew, how far it would be proper to put other Places in the same or like circumstances on the same footing. That which bids the fairest to suit them all is, to cause a certain hour for the opening of each Market to be fixed, and to make it penal to sell any Corn before notice is given by a Bell or otherwise, and then those, who are not in time, may blame themselves.

Measures have been attempted to be regulated to no purpose, as appears by many Acts since *Magna Charta*, which is now 500 years ago, by obliging all Persons to use the like; and, it may be feared, there are difficulties to be surmounted, which may retard their regulation as yet for a long *while*.*

* Since this was written, two or three Committees of the House of Commons have taken great pains in regard to Weights and Measures; but the difficulties are not yet got over.

† We

† We shall mention only one, which it seems would not be easily got over, in regard to the measure of Corn; where the poor buy it for their own use, and a large bushel is at present used; for there it would be very difficult, if it was reduced to the present standard, to satisfy them that they received no injury by the reduction.

† For instance, let us suppose the act to commence in a place where the measure of the bushel of Wheat is nine gallons, the weight 72 lb. and the price 4s. 6d. this bushel, being reduced to eight gallons of the weight of 64 lb. and to the price of 4s. would at first give no offence; nor so long as the price should remain under four shillings, as it would be plain that although the size and weight of the bushel were less than before, the price was also reduced in a due proportion; but whenever it should happen that the eight-gallon bushel was sold for 4s. 6d. then the poor would be apt to grow discontented, and say, the bushel is lessened, and yet the price is raised, and it would not be an easy matter to persuade them to believe, that, if it was still nine gallons, the value would be more than five shillings.

In the mean time, if it were enacted, that in every Market-house in *Great Britain*, or some more conspicuous place in every Market-town, the contents of the bushel, and other measures, in *Winchester* quarts and pints, should be written up, and kept continually legible, and every Person selling Corn there should be bound, without express mention

tion being made thereof, and in case no exprefs mention be made at the Bargain-making to the contrary, to deliver the Person to whom he fells the quantity for the Bufhel, or other meafure, as fo written up, and at the fame time it fhould be prohibited to depart from the ufe of the customary meafure to any other but the legal or *Wincheſter* meafure.

Many good ends might be answered by this regulation; every Stranger coming into the Market would know what meafure he is to expect; and, if certificates of the meafures ufed in each Market were tranſmitted to the Excife, the whole might be made into a kind of alphabet, by which every Perſon would be enabled to find the various meafures ufed in every part of the nation.

The Statute 15 *Car.* II. fixes the prices at which all other Sorts of Grain may be laid up, as well as Wheat, and Stat. 1 *Will.* and *Mary* gives a Bounty on the Exportation of Rye, Barley, and Wheatmeal, as well as Wheat, and Stat. 5 *Ann.* on Oatmeal, but it was thought proper to take notice of Wheat only in this Eſſay in order to avoid prolixity.

The prices of Wheat mentioned herein are taken from the Register of *Eton* College, an abſtract of which from 1646 follows; and we will cloſe the whole with a Liſt of the Statutes above referred to.

From 1646 to 1666 the Average Price of the Quarter of Wheat	£.	s.	d.
1666 to 1686	2	17	5½
1686 to 1706	2	6	3
1706 to 1726	2	5	9½
1726 to 1746	1	4	9½
1746 to 1756	1	17	10½
	1	17	3

Note,

Note, These are the prices of the very best Wheat; besides the measure there is full nine gallons; so that, deducting 2s. for the fineness, and one ninth for the measure, the prices will stand thus, *viz.*

			<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From 1646 to 1686	—	—	2	4	4	Winchester Measure.
1686 to 1756	—	—	1	15	1	Ditto.

For the last 70 Years—Wheat hath }
 been cheaper — — — — } — 9 3 per Quarter.

In 1688, the Bounty on Exportation was first given, and wheat having on the average been so much cheaper ever since shews, that the Law then made was a good Law, as well as 15 *Car. II.* for, if only two thirds of the Corn consumed in Bread hath been Wheat, and the above Register is true, the Money, which hath been saved annually in that article only, amounts to above a *million and a half of Money**; an almost incredible sum, and more than four times the sum paid for Bounty on the Exportation of all sorts of Corn in the year of the greatest Export ever known; besides the ready money which hath been brought into the nation for the Corn exported.

* See the account stated in the Collection of Papers, *Tract the Third.*

A LIST of the STATUTES about CORN, most of which are above referred to.

Year.	Kings.	General Purport.
1534—25	<i>Hen. VIII.</i>	cap. 2—regulating the price of victuals.
1548—	5 and 6 <i>Ed. VI.</i>	cap. 14—against ingrossers, &c.
1553—	1 and 2 <i>P. and M.</i>	cap. 5—allowing Exportation till 6s. 8d.
1563—	5 <i>Eliz.</i>	cap. 12—alters 5 and 6 <i>Ed. VI.</i> in regard to buyers.
1571—13	<i>Eliz.</i>	cap. 13—regulates Exportation, &c.
1603—	1 <i>Jac. I.</i>	cap. 13—the same.
1624—21	<i>Jac. I.</i>	cap. 28—the same, and alters 5 and 6 <i>Ed. VI.</i> still more.
1627—	3 <i>Car. I.</i>	cap. 4—nearly a repetition of the last, and allows Export to 32s.
1660—12	<i>Car. II.</i>	cap. 4—relates to Export, and allows it till 40s.
1663—15	<i>Car. II.</i>	cap. 7—the same, and alters or suspends 5 and 6 <i>Ed. VI.</i> till Wheat 48s. to which it allows Export.
1670—22	<i>Car. II.</i>	cap. 13—allows Export after 48s. paying custom, &c.
1685—	1 <i>Jac. II.</i>	cap. 19—regulates the manner of ascertaining the prices according to which custom on the Importation is to be paid.
1688—	1 <i>W. and M.</i>	cap. 12—gives Bounty and repeals custom on Export to 48s.
1698—10	<i>W. III.</i>	cap. 3—from <i>Feb.</i> 10. no Export for one year.
1699—11	<i>W. III.</i>	cap. 3—from <i>Feb.</i> 12. no Bounty for nine months.
1700—11 and 12	<i>W. III.</i>	cap. 20—no custom on Export after 48s.

- 1706— 5 *Anne*
 1709— 8 *Anne*
 1729— 2 *Geo. II.*
 1732— 5 *Geo. II.*
 1738— 11 *Geo. II.*
 1740— 14 *Geo. II.*
 1741— 15 *Geo. II.*
 1757— 30 *Geo. II.*
- cap. 29—gives Bounty on Oatmeal and Wheat-Malt.
 cap. 2—no Export for one year.
 cap. 18—relates to importation.
 cap. 12—the same, and amends 1 *7a. II. c. 19.*
 cap. 22—made felony to hinder Exportation.
 cap. 3—no Export for one year.
 cap. 35—no Export for one year.
 } cap. 1—no Export till 27 *Dec. 1757.*
 } cap. 7—Import allowed till *Aug. 25, 1757*, duty-free.
 cap. 1—no Export till 24 *Dec. 1758.*
 cap. 2—no Export till 24 *Dec. 1759*, but subject to alteration.
 and by cap. 8—repealed after 25 *Mar. 1759.*
 cap. 31—no Bounty on Export or Duty on Import of Wheat till
 24 *Aug. 1765.*
 cap. 32.—if Wheat is '6s. a bushel, the King and Council may
 prohibit the Export thereof, during next recess of
 Parliament.
- cap. 3—Wheat may be imported from *America* duty-free to
 Michaelmas.
 cap. 4.—Oats and Oatmeal generally to Ditto.
 cap. 5.—Export of Wheat from *Feb. 26*, to *Aug. 26* prohibited.
- 1765— 5 *Geo. III.*
 1765— 5 *Geo. III.*
 1766— 6 *Geo. III.*

These are all the most material Statutes we can find relative to the Corn-trade; and it is remarkable, that, although the Bounty hath been before suspended, and the Exportation prohibited, yet, till 1757, the Importation was never allowed duty-free.

The following papers, which were before added, are here continued by way of Appendix; the writers are entirely unknown to the Author, nor doth he know how he came by them, but thinks they were given away at the door of the House of Commons, and in his opinion should not be lost, as they not only contain some things which have slipped him in the Essay; but also explain some of those, he hath mentioned, in a better and clearer manner than he hath done.

APPENDIX.

January 19, 1757]

MEMORIAL

FOR THE

ROYAL BOROUGHES OF SCOTLAND.

IT is now past all Doubt with the discerning Part of this Nation, that the present high Prices of Grain proceed from the great Deficiencies that happened in the two last Crops. The first was almost entirely consumed before the last was got well off the Ground; and the last proves extremely deficient, both in Quantity and Quality.

It is therefore perfectly evident, that an Addition to the Quantity can alone relieve the Distresses of the Poor and labouring People. It is this, and this only, which will reduce the present exorbitant price of Grain in the populous, grazing, and manufacturing, Counties, which never yield Grain sufficient for their own Subsistence, where the Poor presently labour under extreme Distress, and which, it is too

greatly to be feared, must even increase, if some effectual Measures be not immediately taken for their Relief.

It would be highly proper to suspend the Duties on the Importation of all kinds of Grain for a limited Time, in order to encourage the bringing Corn from abroad to supply the Wants of the Poor, and thereby to support the Trade and Manufactures of the Nation, which otherwise must suffer in a very high Degree. But, at the same time that the Legislature should be attentive to such Measures as will not only reduce the present Prices, and prevent their growing higher, they should also be careful to prevent any unnecessary Consumption of foreign Grain; as that must drain the Island of so much of her Treasure, and in some Degree discourage her Agriculture, and abate her Strength.

To this End it is of high Importance, that the Communication be rendered as free and easy as possible, from the growing Counties to those who never produce enough for their own Consumption. The Legislature ought therefore to consider, how to prevent the present riotous Proceedings of the common People, their seizing, on the Rivers and High-roads, the Corn going to or coming from the public Markets or Shipping Ports, and selling it off, or otherwise distributing it as they please, in open Defiance of the Laws.

It is to be observed too, that these Proceedings demand the stricter Attention, that they prevail chiefly
in

in the growing Counties, thereby preventing the Supplies from going to the populous manufacturing Districts which are in real Want. The least Evil that ensues from such Abuses is enhancing the price in a great Degree, by increasing the Risk and Charge of the Adventurer.

The Old Laws which were made before Commerce was well understood, those, to wit, of the 5th and 6th *Edward VI.* and of the 5th of *Elizabeth*, seem to have a considerable Tendency to increase the Prices to the manufacturing Counties. They lay many Restraints upon the Purchasers of Corn, and subject them to heavy Penalties, which they are liable to incur by very innocent Mistakes. Hence Persons of Character and Substance in many Places now decline all Concern or Adventure in Grain, to the great Detriment and Distress of the Districts distant from the Places of Growth, which were in use to be supplied by their Means, and can hardly indeed be supplied otherwise. It is true, that, in order to abate the Rigour of these Statutes, there was a Law passed in the 15th of *Charles II.* whereby it was enacted, *cap. 7. f. 4.* "That when the Prices of
 " Corn or Grain, *Winchester* Measure, do not ex-
 " ceed the Rates following at the Markets, Havens,
 " or Places, where the same shall be bought, *viz.*
 " the Quarter of Wheat 48s. the Quarter of Rye
 " 32s. the Quarter of Barley or Malt 28s. the
 " Quarter of Buck-Wheat 28s. the Quarter of Oats
 " 13s. and 4d. the Quarter of Pease or Beans 32s.

E

" that

“ that then it shall be lawful for all and every Person
 “ and Persons (not forestalling nor selling the same
 “ in the same Market within three Months after the
 “ buying thereof) to buy in open Markets, and to
 “ lay up and keep in his or their Granaries or Houses,
 “ and to sell again such Corn or Grain of the Kinds
 “ afore said, as without Fraud or Covin shall have
 “ been bought at or under the Prices before expressed;
 “ without incurring any Penalty; any Law, Statute,
 “ or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.”

This Act, it must be acknowledged, does in some Degree mitigate the Acts of *Edward* and *Elizabeth*. But it is to be observed, that the Prices therein specified bear no just Proportion to each other, especially those of Wheat, Barley, and Oats; the first being rated at 48s. the next at 28s. and the last at 13s. 4d. per Quarter. It is well known, that Wheat and Barley seldom now reach these Prices, but that good Oats exceed the Price at which they are rated almost as often as they fall short of it.

The Proportion may have been very just at the Time this Law was made; but the Alteration in Consumption, Produce, or Quality, has put those Articles on a very different Footing; so that now, when Wheat bears the Price of 48s. the Quarter, and Barley 28s. Oats cannot well be under 20 or 21s.

Mr. King, a very ingenious and accurate Calculator, in his Computation of the Land-product of *England* given by Dr. *Davenant*, estimates, that, in
 a Year

a Year of moderate Plenty, the Wheat sells at 28s. the Quarter, Rye at 20s. Barley at 16s. Oats at 12s. and Pease and Beans 20s. He likewise tells us, that one tenth of Defect in the Harvest will raise the Price of Corn about three tenths above the common Rate; that two tenths of Defect will advance the Price eight tenths, and three tenths Deficiency will advance it about one and $\frac{4}{5}$. If we suppose his Computation any Thing nearly just, and that the Price of Oats, in ordinary Years of Plenty, may be rated at 12s. a Quarter, surely their advancing above 13s. 4d. must very frequently happen. To lay any Restraint therefore upon the purchasing of Oats when at that Rate is doing great Injustice to the Farmers and Landholders of the growing Counties, as well as to those which always stand in need of Supply; preventing the first from obtaining so good Prices as they might and ought to obtain, and the others from being supplied so freely, and on such easy Terms, as they would if they were relieved from such Restrictions.

It would be proper, therefore, that a Review was made of this Law; that the buying of Oats was relieved from any Restraint, except when they shall exceed 20s. to 21s. the Quarter, which will bring them on a par with other Grain contained in the Act of Charles II. It is surely for the Advantage of the whole Nation, that no Part of it should enjoy a Monopoly against another; and that every Part should be cultivated to the greatest Advantage. Some Dis-

tracts are found most proper for Tillage, others for Graſing; the Produce of both is equally neceſſary for the Support of the People. The Legiſlature ought therefore, at all Times, to have in view the rendering the Circulation of the different Products into all Quarters of the Kingdom as eaſy and free from Reſtraints as poſſible: For every Reſtraint muſt leſſen the Value to the Grower, and inhanche the Price to the Conſumer; eſpecially when the Article conſumed is to be brought from Places that are diſtant. The immediate reviſing of this Statute becomes the more neceſſary, that the Juſtices of the Peace, in the Counties of *Northumberland* and *Durham*, have reſuſed to give Licenſes for the buying of Corn in the Terms pointed out by Law, though the Price of Oats is far from being high in thoſe Counties; and it is well known, that Agriculture has, within thirty years paſt, ſo increaſed in the firſt of them, that the People cannot, even in the very worſt Year, conſume near the Produce of that County: So, if ſome Method is not taken to check the increaſing riotous Diſpoſition of the People there, and to relieve all Doubts and Difficulties which the Juſtices may have in regard to the Laws, the Corn there may be coopt up in the Hands of the Farmers without Sale, to the Detriment of the landed Inter-eſt, and Diſtreſs of the manufacturing Counties, which conſume Oats in Bread, and demand immediate Supplies. It may alſo occaſion an unneceſſary Exportation of the Nation's Subſtance, by creating
greater

greater Demand from abroad for that Article than would be requisite, if the Communication between the growing and manufacturing Counties was rendered free, open, and safe. Therefore, if any Measure should be taken for suspending the Duties on Importation of Grain, it is of great Importance, that something effectual should, in the first place, be done towards quelling the present riotous Spirit that too much prevails; and rendering the purchasing and Transportation of Oats from the growing Counties to the distant Markets as safe and easy as that of any other Grain.

To those who have Occasion to know the Situation of the Kingdom in regard to that Article, the suspending the Duties upon the Importation of Grain appears every Day more and more requisite, to preserve the Lives of many of his Majesty's Subjects. It is, however, a Measure that ought to be conducted with great Delicacy, lest the landed Interest and Agriculture of the Nation should suffer by too large Importation.

The Duties ought therefore to be taken off only for a limited Time, with Power to his Majesty and Council to prolong the Time, as they see Cause. On the other hand, Supplies from abroad are absolutely necessary, and this Nation can only have them from Countries that lie very distant; therefore the Time of Suspension should not be too much limited, lest it frustrate the Intention, by preventing many Persons from adventuring upon such Uncertainty as
they

they must be under, whether they shall be allowed to import the Corn after it shall arrive; the Duties upon every kind of Grain, except Oats, being equal to a Prohibition, unless the Prices should go so high as can happen only from the most dismal Famine.

As the Culture of Land is of the highest Importance to this Nation, every Way of encouraging Agriculture ought to be carefully sought after and cherished; and every visible Obstruction to its Improvement, and whatever tends to lessen the Value of its Product, ought to be removed. It were a Pity an Opportunity of doing any Thing to answer these Ends should be lost; and none can offer more favourable than the present, when the Scarcity of Corn has occasioned a Bill on that Subject to be brought into Parliament.

One great Hindrance, and needless Load, upon carrying the Produce of the Lands of *Britain* to the proper Markets within the Island, is that of exacting Coast-Cockets, and Bonds under high Penalties, for all Corn that may be transported coastwise, from one Place of *Britain* to another, without the Bounds of any navigable River. This Method is attended not only with very great Delay and Charge to all Persons concerned in the shipping of Corn, but also with the greatest Trouble and Hindrance to the Navigation; and there have been Instances, wherein, by Neglect of sending the proper Certificates for relieving these Bonds, that some Mariners and others have been ruined by Prosecutions following thereupon, though

though there is not the least Necessity for any such Securities being granted; and it might be shewn, that, in many Cases, the taking of them may be even hurtful to his Majesty's Revenue.

By the Act 13th and 14th of *Charles II.* intituled, *An Act for preventing Frauds and Abuses in his Majesty's Customs*, it is enacted, "That if any Goods, " Wares, or Merchandises, shall be shipped, or put " aboard, to be carried forth to the open Sea, from " any Port, Creek, or Member, &c. to be landed " at any other Place of this Realm, without a Suffe- " ferance or Warrant first had and obtained from " the Managers of his Majesty's Customs, all such " Wares and Merchandise shall be forfeited, and " the Master enjoined, before the Ship be removed " out of the Port, to take out a Cocket, and be- " come bound for Delivery and Discharge thereof " in the Port for which the same shall be entered, " or some other Port within the Realm, and to re- " turn a Certificate of the Goods being so landed " and discharged."

Upon this Law is founded the Practice of taking Bond, &c. But it is evident by the very Title and Nature of the Statute, that it was intended to prevent Frauds and Abuses in his Majesty's Customs, and to prevent Corn shipped coastwise in any Part of the Kingdom from being fraudulently carried out of it * to Parts beyond the Seas. There were con- siderable

* Being fraudulently carried out of it, the Kingdom. Possibly no Law is more rigorously carried, at all Times, into Execution

considerable Duties at that Time upon the Exportation thereof, which made these Bonds and Cockets necessary. But by the subsequent wise Laws, encouraging the Exportation of Corn of all sorts, and giving of large Bounties on particular kinds thereof, the Necessity of these Securities was entirely taken away; nay, the Continuation of them rendered altogether absurd; for, no Man will clear Corn coastwise which he intends to export, as by this he would lose the Bounty. But after Corn is shipped coastwise, and the Vessel has perhaps proceeded partly on her Voyage, if any sudden Advance at a foreign Market should induce the Owner to dispatch his Cargo abroad, with such Expedition as not to suffer the Delay and Charge of relanding and shipping, new Entries, &c. to intitle him to the Bounty, he is totally cut off from this Measure, by the Impossibility of getting his Coast-bond relieved by a proper Certificate of the Corn being landed in *Britain*. Such Circumstances have happened, and will frequently happen in the Corn-trade; and it may be prudent for the Merchant to take this Course, especially when the Corn on-board is of the kind whereon the smallest Bounties are allowed. In this View of the Thing, the Practice of Bond is hurtful to the Revenue, as well as the Merchant. And no doubt many Cargoes in this Situation would have gone abroad,

tion than the above; how then can there be any of those illegal Exports, which were said lately, in Print, to be so notorious as to need no Proof?

without

without the Bounty, if the Coast-security had not stood in the Way.

These Securities therefore for Corn carried coastwise serve no End but to raise high Fees to Custom-house Officers, to delay and retard Navigation; especially when the Cargoes may be loaded at Creeks perhaps ten or twenty Miles distant from the Custom-house, they often occasion Vessels to lose their Passage, or come too late to Market, and put the Shipmasters to considerable Charges in travelling so far to give their Securities, and to Trouble in finding Bondsmen to join them; besides the great Trouble and Expence that is incurred afterwards by procuring Certificates, and transmitting them to the different Custom-houses for cancelling the Bonds.

It is evident, that all this Charge and Trouble may be considered as a needless Burden on carrying the Produce of the Lands of *Great Britain* to Market.

And it is not to be doubted, that the Custom of taking Bonds and Cockets for home Corn carried coastwise would have been abolished, when that valuable Law was made for giving Bounties on Corn exported, if the above Observations had then occurred to the Legislature.

If it should seem hard to risk hurting so valuable an Object as the Culture of Land in *Britain*, by suspending, even at such a Juncture as this is, the Duties on foreign Corn imported; why allow that Land to continue loaded with a Tax on its Produce, when carried coastwise, which answers no good Purpose, and which in itself is oppressive and absurd?

The City of *London* got free of this oppressive Custom by Statute 1mo *Annæ*, cap. 26. for the whole River *Thames*, and the Coast between the Promontory called the *North-Foreland* on the South, and Promontory called the *Naze* on the North.

The Preamble of this Statute declares how grievous a Thing it was at that Time; and that the Officers taking Cockets and Bonds, and exacting Fees for the same, was oppressive and illegal.

Ought not therefore the whole Kingdom to be freed now in the same Manner by a Clause inserted in the Corn-Bill now depending, DECLARING, That, for the future, Permits or Transfers only shall be necessary for Grain carried coastwise from one Part of the Kingdom of *Britain* to another, at all Times while that Commodity may be lawfully exported upon Bounty, or without Payment of Duties: and that, while Corn is prohibited to be exported, as at present, Bonds and Cockets should be exacted as formerly.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE PRESENT

HIGH PRICES OF CORN.

THE Crops in *Britain* and *Ireland*, in the Year 1755 were very scanty: and it is certain, that on the Approach of the last Harvest, which proved late, seldom in the Memory of Man has a smaller Stock of old Grain been known in these Islands.

The last Season of 1756, from its Beginning, was extremely unfavourable; Thousands of Acres remained unsown; and the bad Condition in which many more were sown rendered them incapable of producing a good Crop, although favourable Weather had followed. It is certain, that the Weather during the Spring, Summer, and Harvest, was generally unfavourable; great Quantities of Grain perished by the Rains and Winds, and most of what remained proved defective, both in Quantity and Substance, by its not duly ripening; and, whatever People, prejudiced or ignorant of the general State of these Matters,

Matters, may affirm, it is a melancholy Truth, that the Crops, though middling, or even good, for some Kinds of Grain, in particular Counties, have at no Time, during thirty Years past, through *Britain* and *Ireland*, proved more scanty upon the whole.

In this Situation, it is the Duty of every one who wishes well to his Country, to suggest all reasonable Methods by which the present Exorbitancy in the Price of Grain may be corrected, and the destructive Consequences of another backward Season or bad Crop may be prevented. This is in all Respects the more necessary, as the Effects of the last bad Season have been almost equally felt over the greatest Part of the Northern Continent of *Europe*, and as a Scarcity in any one Country must necessarily affect the Prices of Grain in every neighbouring Country.

The Legislature has wisely prohibited all Exportation of Grain; but it may be doubted whether this prudent Precaution will of itself be sufficient for preventing the Calamities which another bad Season may produce.

Experience has shewn, that the Price of no sort of Grain has been reduced by this Measure, though, at this Time of the Year, Corn is generally brought most plentifully by the Farmers to Market. This also affords a strong Proof, that, without the seasonable Prohibition of Export, the Prices would have run higher, and that there is a real Defect in the Quantity of Corn in both Islands.

To prevent the for estalling and ingrossing of Corn, especially in the Neighbourhood of a great City or Town, where the Millers, Bakers, Maltsters, &c. may themselves purchase from the Growers directly, and take off all the Produce, is most necessary, and strict Attention ought to be given to the Execution of this Measure; but it may be doubted how far the Prices of Grain will be lowered by renewing the antient Laws against Foresters and Ingrossers in their full Latitude; and many are of Opinion, that the late well-intended Proclamation has rather been hurtful than otherwise in that Respect*.

The Counties which are most populous, and where Manufactures chiefly flourish in both Islands, generally grow less Corn than the other Counties less populous and less manufacturing. Thus many Counties on the East Coast generally supply others on their own Side, but particularly the West Coast of the Island, even in Times of Plenty.

* It was dated 26 Nov. 1756, and after reciting the 5 and 6 of Ed. VI. c. 14. and the 5 Eliz. c. 12, &c. goes on, *And whereas the prices of Corn are already very much increased, and the same is likely to grow much dearer, to the great oppression of the poor, partly because the said Acts are not duly put in execution; We have, &c.*—Which words, it was thought at that time, did much harm, in that many of the Farmers took the hint to wait for the higher price, and that the Dealers, being threatened with prosecutions under Laws of which many of them had never heard, proceeded with great caution; whereby the circulation in the Corn trade moved very slowly, the price of Wheat rose apace and it became very dear, and this, it was imagined, was in great measure owing to the said Proclamation, and may be added to the Consequence so well described by the Writer farther on.

It

It is natural, and indeed reasonable, at first View, for People to think, that in Times of Scarcity there should be no Interposition, if possible, between the Grower and the Consumer, or at least the Manufacturer of Grain; but this, in fact, is generally impracticable, unless so far as the Produce in the Neighbourhood of a great City or Town will go.

The Corn therefore necessary for supplying distant Places or Counties has always been, and generally must be, bought and transported to the Places where the Demand is, by Merchants, or others of Substance and Knowledge in that Branch of Business.

It is obvious the Growers and Manufacturers of Grain, and far less the Consumers, cannot engage in such Purchases and Transportation of Corn to or from distant Places. It is also obvious, that the contractors for the Sale of such Corn, or the Agents who may be employed for the Purchase of it in the growing Counties, must collect great Quantities at different places, until Opportunities of Shipping can be obtained for carrying it off; and this practice, however necessary for the Supply of distant Places of the Island, comes under the Letter of the old Statutes against forestalling and ingrossing of Corn,

This is more particularly so in the Case of Oats or Oat-Meal, which by the Statute *Cb. II. Chap. 15.* cannot be bought without Licences, &c. when Oats are above 13s. 4d. per Quarter. Now, as this Price bears no Proportion to that of other Grain mentioned in that Act,

Act, the Regulation is hurtful in many Parts of the Island, especially those the most remote from the Capital; and it is inconceivable how such a Disproportion should have been established between the Price of Oats and other Grain in that Act.

The Consequence of the late Proclamation has been, in many growing or shipping Counties, to make the common People riotous, and to prevent the buying or shipping of Corn even in such Quarters of the Country where it can be spared, and where the Prices are moderate; it being natural for the common People, in such Times, to wish for Corn still cheaper, and to prevent any Thing being shipped or going out of their Bounds, especially if the Letter of the Law gives the least Countenance to such a Procedure.

The Effect of this is immediately to stop all Purchases, and to distress the distant and populous Places, which depend on their Supplies Coast-ways, even in Time of Plenty. Many such Places are in the Kingdom, which might be enumerated if the Fact were not well known; and they begin already to feel this Inconveniency, it having gone to such a Height, that the Transportation of Corn from one Place to another, at the Distance of a few Miles to and even from the Sea-Coast, has been violently interrupted by the Populace.

Dr. *Davenant*, a judicious Writer, has observed, fifty Years ago, That a Review of our antient Laws

con-

concerning Corn was necessary; for, they were in no ways suited to the State of the Kingdom, increase of People, and other Circumstances of the then Times. The Observation will more forcibly apply to the present Times.

This Author's Thoughts on this Subject are worthy of Perusal at present, as he points out some Methods for preventing Dearth's for the future, though not indeed applicable in a scarce Year. He exposes in the clearest Light the fatal Consequences of a Dearth, especially to a Trading Nation; such Consequences indeed as he mentions are not to be dreaded in our Times. Our Agriculture has been so immensely improved by the wise Institutions of Bounties on Corn exported; Commerce is more practised and better understood; and it may also be reasonably supposed, that our Merchants, having both more Knowledge and Capital than in former Times, will, by Importations from one Quarter of the World or another, always prevent a Scarcity from becoming intolerable.

But whatever is done by the Legislature for regulating the Inland Commerce of Corn, if no other Measures are taken, it will be only festering the Wound, and in no sort remove the growing Evil; it may indeed make Corn cheaper for a Time in such Counties where it can be spared, and where it is already moderate, but it will doubly distress the distant and manufacturing Places.

Quantity

Quantity is wanted; and nothing but an additional Quantity brought to Market can effectuate the good End proposed, and enable the poor to purchase at an easy Rate.

This may be done in two Ways; and both will be necessary at present: first, by prohibiting for a limited Time the Distillery from Wheat in *Britain*, which will add immensely to the Quantity for Bread; and, secondly, by suspending the Duties on all Corn that may be imported, at least for some Months, or while the Prices keep high at Home.

As to the first, without entering into the Arguments for or against Distillery in general, it seems natural and absolutely necessary to prohibit Distillers the Use of Wheat, at least for a Time; if that be true which is asserted with great Appearance of Reason, that half the Wheat that comes to the Market of *London* at present is bought by Distillers; that more of that Grain is consumed by them alone within *England* in a Year than would maintain 500,000 Persons*, or than the whole Quantity of Wheat which is consumed in this Island northward of *York*. Certainly the saving such a Quantity of Corn at this Juncture is very desirable and necessary.

As to any Encroachment on the Revenue thereby, without question, in our present Situation, that is a

* The Observer was greatly imposed on in this, I am credibly informed they never used near one sixth Part of a Quantity sufficient for that Purpose.

tender Point; but it is supposed the Wheat so Used pays little if any Thing of the Malt Tax, and any Deficiency sustained thereby may be more than compensated by the Increase of Duties on Spirits made from Barley-Malt, by the saving of the whole Bounties on Corn and Malt exported this Year, and by the additional Duties * on foreign and *American* Spirits that may be imported to supply the Want of our own made from Wheat.

As to the second Part, *viz.* The encouraging of Importations from abroad, there is no doubt, if we are not too dilatory in our Resolutions, but we can have Corn from *America*, the Southern Parts of *Europe*, *Barbary*, and possibly some Places nearer Home. But the present Duties on most Grain, especially Wheat, Rye, and Pease, are in effect equal to a Prohibition. The Duty on Oats is indeed low, but it would still be a sufficient Profit to the Importer, and consequently an Encouragement to bring them into the Kingdom.

Why then may not all Duties on Corn imported be suspended for some Months, until the Appearance of next Crop be seen, or until Prices at home become moderate? The Interest of the public Revenue will not be effected by this, it being indeed our Happiness, that, for nineteen years in twenty, these Duties produce little or nothing: And as to any Objections from the Landholders and Farmers,

* The Author means Increase of the Duties.

for the Dealers in home Corn, whose Gains may be lessened by this Measure, they ought to be disregarded at a Time when the Condition of the Poor is so distressful.

If these Methods are pursued, large additional Quantities will come to Market. The very Apprehension of a free Import of foreign Grain, or the Appearance of a few Cargoes thereof in our Ports, will induce all the Hoarders of Home-Grain, whether Farmers or Dealers, to bring it out to Market, and the Prices will of course be lowered for the Poor.

QUANTITY, and that alone can frustrate all Attempts to engross or forestal. If there be a good Crop, or a proper Quantity of Grain, either at home or from abroad, to be got for the Market, no Art or Scheme can inhanse the Price of Grain, whatever speculative Persons may fancy to themselves; and if there be a bad Crop, and the Quantities of Grain be scanty, no Art or Regulation of Government will keep the Prices low.

These Methods will, it is hoped, serve our Purpose, if the next Season should prove early and favourable; but if these Methods should fail, or the Season in any degree appear backward, a total Prohibition of Distillery, and perhaps even of Malt-ing, may be necessary. But it would seem that a small Bounty upon all Corn imported for a limited Time, over and above the Suspension

sion of the Duties, might answer the end better, and with less real Loss or Inconvenience to the Revenue or Kingdom.

These two Papers appear to have been printed about the Year 1757, and are here copied exactly, except the Quotation out of 15 Car. II. in the first, which is copied from the Statute.

A
T A B L E

OF

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CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

L A W S

RELATING TO THE

IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF CORN.

Being an Inquiry what Alteration may be made in
them for the Benefit of the Public.

Written in the Beginning of the Year 1759.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Treatise was written in the beginning of the year 1759, for the use of a particular Gentleman, who soon returned the manuscript, which has been since lent to several others; notwithstanding which the Author hath taken the liberty to make some corrections therein, and additions thereto, the most material of which became necessary on account of the late alterations in the Corn-laws in *France*, and are marked thus †, as to the rest, the substance is the same as at first.

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

L A W S

Relating to the

IMPORTATION and EXPORTATION of
CORN, &c.

SECTION I.

THE variety in the seasons, one year from another will ever cause fluctuations in the price of every thing which depends on them, and it seems as possible to regulate the seasons, as by any Law to order it so,
that

that Corn shall always remain at one fixed and certain PRICE, and, for this reason, should any thing of that sort at any time be attempted, it would certainly fail.

Besides, could any regulation of that sort be carried into execution, it would tend to lessen the œconomy of the common people, and the attempt would greatly discourage Tillage.

The œconomy of the common people would be lessened by knowing at what price they could buy Bread, which is their principle expence; and many of them would act too much like many of those who subsist on certain Salaries, that is, calculate their expences in so exact a proportion to their Income, that they would find a very small accidental loss extremely difficult to recover.

Few of those, whose Incomes and Expences are certain, are known to lay up any great matter before hand, and it will be generally found, that those, whose Incomes and Expences are uncertain, are the best Husbands; and this, because they are thereby obliged to a constant œconomy, and to strive, if possible, to have something in store for accidents.

The attempting such a regulation would greatly discourage Tillage, as the Farmer would be thereby assured, that should he have the misfortune to lose half his Crop, he could receive no indemnification by selling the remainder at a higher price.

These inconveniences seem naturally to attend the attempting such a regulation; and it may be questioned

tioned if any good purpose could be answered thereby.

All that can be done by the Legislature in this matter, is, to frame their Laws so as to prevent Grain from being at any time, either so dear that the poor cannot subsist, or so cheap that the Farmer cannot live by growing of it, which hath been, or at least should have been, the general view of all Governments in their Corn-laws; and no regulations that have ever been made, in any Country, in regard thereto, can have answered these ends better than those established in this Kingdom; which in general are these, *viz.* permitting an Importation at a low duty when dear, and by a high duty prohibiting it when cheap, and at the same time, in order to the encouragement and increase of Tillage, giving a Bounty on the Exportation, and securing the property of all Persons who shall trade therein for that end.

The Bounty was first given on the Exportation of Grain in the Year 1689, now seventy years since *; during which period, Grain hath in general been from fifteen to twenty *per cent.* cheaper than for forty years before that time, which is a good proof of the utility of the Law by which it is ordered to be given, and which is farther proved, in that, since its first establishment, the Parliament have not thought fit to suspend it, either in part or the whole, only four times, *viz.* in 1698, 1709, 1740, and 1757, which last sus-

* This was written in the month of Jan. 1759.

pension is still in force, and to continue to *Christmas* next*.

That Corn hath been as much cheaper since the Bounties took place, as before mentioned, is so notorious, that the prices thereof to which the Bounties are payable by Law, which when first established were thought *moderate*, and under which the then Parliament thought the Farmer could not afford to grow it, are now thought *very dear*, and long before Corn is sold at those prices, at which the Bounties are to cease of course, we have of late heard clamours for taking the Bounty off, and stopping the Exportation.

Few understand the nature of the Corn-
 §. 2. trade so well as to be able to determine justly, if it would be proper to make any alteration in this matter; and, even amongst those few, much the greater part are interested in the question, and therefore all should be heard with great caution.

And so different are their opinions, that whilst one urges the necessity of taking off the Bounty, now paid on the Exportation of Corn, for the future, because, as he thinks, it tends to make Bread too dear for the poor; it is pressed by another as making Corn so cheap, that the Farmers cannot live; and this Author seems to think, that no other Country can ex-

* The Stat. 32 G. II. chap. 2. which enacted this prohibition, was in pursuance of a clause therein, by chap. 9. repealed after 25 *March*, 1759.

port Corn but our own, and that foreigners must have it at what price we please.

A third contends that the Bounties should not be withdrawn for the same reason, saying, the same effect will follow, and that to such a degree, that the Farmer could not go on without a great abatement in his Rent; adding moreover, that, were the Bounties taken away, our shipping would decrease, and consequently our seamen; and therefore he concludes, that the continuing to give a Bounty on the Exportation of Corn is necessary to the well-being of the Nation.

A fourth says, a Bounty should be continued, giving for instance, Wheat; which, in his opinion, should never be sold under 3s. 6d. nor for more than 4s. a bushel, and proposes, in order to keep it in this medium, that a Bounty of 6d. a bushel be continued, when the price of the bushel doth not exceed 4s. 6d. and, when it exceeds 5s. proposes that a duty of 8d. a bushel be paid on the Exportation, which duty should go towards the Bounty when Corn is low.

Although it might be much easier to
§. 3. shew, that most of these propositions are calculated to serve particular interests, than to determine what is right and fit to be done, yet the present time, during the SUSPENSION of the Law, is most undoubtedly the proper time to consider the question, since no plea can now be made against any alteration in the affair on account of its tending
to

to deprive any set of Men of their present livelihood, and we have also an opportunity of seeing the Corn-trade at present carried on without either Exportation or Bounty. Let us therefore suppose the question, in relation to both Importation and Exportation, to be stated as follows.

First, Is it proper to allow of any Importation or Exportation of Corn for the future?

Secondly, If it is proper to allow of Importation and Exportation of Corn, should it be done under any and what encouragements, restrictions, and regulations?

Thirdly, Are those encouragements, restrictions, and regulations, if any are necessary, to be made certain and remain fixed? Or is any and what power of varying them from time to time to be lodged in any and what hands?

To which questions the following answers may be given.

First, as it would be contrary to common sense to think, when our own growth is not sufficient for our consumption, of prohibiting the Importation, so it would be highly unreasonable, when we have Corn to spare, to deny the liberty of exporting the surplus; and therefore, both Importation and Exportation of Corn must be allowed for the future.

Secondly, As it appears, that, under the present encouragement, restrictions, and regulations, relative to the Importation and Exportation of Corn, most of which have now subsisted seventy years, that commodity,

modity hath in general been as cheap, and Wheat in particular cheaper than before they took place; it may fairly be concluded, that to them such cheapness hath been owing, and therefore both the one and the other should still be allowed under some *such* encouragement, restrictions, and regulations, as are now subsisting, though at present suspended.

Thirdly, from the same reason, the success of the present Laws in relation to Corn, which are certain and fixed, with a power of variation, lodged in either of the two Quarter-sessions next after *Michaelmas* and *Easter* in *London*, and in every Quarter-sessions in all other parts of the Kingdom, as to the opening the ports for Importation only, we must conclude, that it is best for them to remain much on the same footing; and, if any alterations are made therein, they must consist only, in regard to Exportation, either in lessening the Bounty, paying it to a less PRICE, or, perhaps, taking it quite away; and, in regard to Importation, in a new regulation of the *Duties* payable in that case, or in regard to the opening the *Ports* * for that purpose.

The better to determine what may be
§. 4. done in each of these particulars, the following positions may be laid down, *viz.*

* By opening the *ports* is meant, the certifying from the Quarter-sessions to the Collector of the Customs, that the prices of Grain are so high, that it is chargeable with the low *duties* only; and, for want of such certificate, the full duties are to be taken, and they amount to a prohibition. See Stat. 1 Jac. II. c. 29; 2 G. II. c. 18; and 5 G. II. c. 12.

G

1. Corn

1. Corn may at some price be so cheap, that the *Grower* will not have a reasonable reward for his labour.
2. At some other price so dear, that the *poor* may find it difficult to purchase it.
3. And it may also be at so moderate a price, that both the *poor* may afford to purchase it, and the *Farmer* afford to grow it at the same time.

Now, it seems very clear, could the prices at which Corn may be said to be *cheap*, *reasonable*, or *dear*, be ascertained, it would be of great use in determining what alterations might be made, with propriety, in all or any of the present Corn-laws.

And for the ascertaining those prices, we have only to refer to the register of *Eton* College, and the Statutes which give a Bounty on the Exportation of Corn, adding a reflection or two.

By the said register it appears, that the average prices of the *best* Wheat and Malt, nine-gallon measure, have been for 164 years, as follows:

Number of years and when.			Prices.	
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
51	1595	1646	2 5 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
40	1646	1686	2 11 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 9 4
40	1686	1726	2 5 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
33	1726	1759	1 18 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 4
91	1595	1686	2 8 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
73	1686	1759	1 18 11	1 7 3
164	1595	1759	2 4 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

And

And the said Statutes ordering the Bounty to be paid on Wheat till 48s. Rye till 32s. Malt and Barley till Barley is 24s. and Oatmeal till Oats are 15s. shew, that till the several Grains exceed the said prices they are to be esteemed *cheap*; and that when the Bounty ceases they are not to be thought *dear* till the prices, except *Oats**, are considerably advanced; for, the duties are so very heavy as to prevent any Importation till Wheat is 53s. 4d. Barley 32s. Rye 40s. and Oats 16s. and, though they should exceed these prices, the duties must still be paid till the port hath been opened, which can only be done at certain seasons, and in a particular manner, as mentioned page 77 in the note.

We can by no means suppose the Legislature had an intention to keep Grain up to these last or even to the Bounty prices. The views of these Laws are most evidently no other than to give all possible encouragement to Agriculture and the growth of Corn, by opening to the Farmer a certain Market for his surplus, and assuring him at the same time, that, in case of a failure in his Crop, foreign Corn shall not be imported on him till the necessity of the people requires it, and the price is so far advanced as to put it in his power in some measure to make up his loss.

And the consequences have answered; for, Agriculture hath been so much extended, and the art of

* The Bounty is payable on Oatmeal till Oats are 15s. and yet at 16s. the low duty commences.

husbandry so much better attended to, and managed with so much more judgement and success, since the passing the above Laws, and under the protection and encouragement they give, than it was before that time, that, although large quantities of all sorts of Grain have been exported, and Wheat is much more generally used for Bread by the common people *, yet the price thereof is considerably sunk, and the price of Malt and other Grain is not advanced; and also, although the rents of Lands have, in general, been very much raised, yet the Farmers are, for the most part, men in much better circumstances than when those Laws first took place.

From what hath been recited and observed, may be collected at what prices Corn may be esteemed *cheap, reasonable, or dear*; or, in other words, what the consumer can afford to give, and the growers afford to take, and this from what hath been done for a considerable time, and by making a comparison between the state of the affair, not only at the precise time the Laws were made, and the state thereof at present, but, as to the prices of Grain, by comparing the averages thereof for ninety-one years preceding with seventy-three since they took place.

* See Supp. ch. 5. sec. 16 and 17. where this is remarked, and it there appears that a labouring man spends sixpence a week more for Wheaten than for Rye bread; from which increase of expence arise those complaints we have so frequently heard of late of the high price of Wheat long before it is sold at 48s. when the Bounty is to cease; the bread made of Wheat being always dearer than that made of any other grain.

And

And we may venture to fix the price of the quarter of each sort containing eight bushels of the *Winchester* or Statute measure, as follows, *viz.*

Wheat	to 36s.	} per quarter, {	42s.	} moderate, and	
Barley	to 18s.		22s.		} then dear.
Rye	to 24s.		28s.		

Pease may be reckoned as Wheat, and Beans as Rye.

Oats to 12s. per quarter cheap, to 16s. moderate, and then dear.

We keep Oats at 16s. as before, because it hath been said, and with an appearance of reason, that they were permitted to be imported at too low a price*, in proportion to the other Grain.

From the above prices it may be concluded, that each of the Grains should be exported freely, till it exceeds the moderate price, and afterwards till the ports are open for Importation, if not without, at least with a small, duty; say Wheat 6d, Barley 3d. Rye 4d. and Oats 3d. per bushel; but, as these duties would amount nearly to a *prohibition*†, it may be better not to impose them.

From

* See note, page 91.

† It would be adding twenty-five per cent. to the first cost of Wheat; the ceasing of the Bounty adds $12\frac{1}{2}$, and that would be a sufficient check; for example, say Wheat costs 36s. in the Market, a Bounty of 4s. reduces it to 32s. Now 4s. is $\frac{1}{9}$ th of 32s. *i. e.* $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and, consequently, was the like duty to commence when the Bounty ceases, it would be 25 per cent. besides it is an experiment which hath been al-

Thence it also appears, that the Farmer will have no need of a Bounty, provided Corn continues on the average as high as it hath done since the Bounty took place.

But as all experiments, which may possibly hurt or discourage Agriculture, should be very cautiously made, it may be very proper to allow, for times certain, a Bounty on Wheat, Barley and Rye; but less than the present *Bounties* *, and payable to lesser prices, and lessening every year till the whole are taken off, which we may suppose as follows, *viz.* Wheat 6d. per bushel till 36s. per quarter, for one year, to decrease $\frac{1}{4}$ per bushel each year after, till the whole is taken off. Barley 3d. per bushel, till 18s.

ready tried: for when, in 1688, the Bounty was given, the act of 22 Car. II. which makes custom payable on Wheat exported after 48s. was not repealed; but, after 12 years experience, *viz.* in 1700, it was repealed by 11 and 12 W. III. and, what is remarkable, it had been so dear the year before, that the Bounty was suspended, and the price was 40s. at the time.

* The present *Bounties* are as under,

Wheat till	48s.—5s. od.
Rye till	32s.—3s. 6d.
Barley till	24s.—2s. 6d.
Oatmeal till Oats are	15s.—2s. 6d.

Malt receives the same as Barley, and, by Statute 3 G. c. 7. sec. 14 and 15, every *two* quarters of Barley is to be esteemed to make *three* quarters of Malt, and the duty is paid accordingly; by which means, with the expence of *two-pence* per quarter, paid by the Excise for breakage on the shipping it off, the Bounty given on every quarter of Barley made into Malt for Exportation is four shillings, which, if the price was always twenty shillings is 20 per Cent. whereas two shillings and sixpence on Barley is only 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. by which means the Exportation of Malt is greatly encouraged.

per quarter for one year, to decrease $\frac{1}{4}$ per bushel, each year after, till the whole is taken-off. Rye 4d. a bushel, till 24s. per quarter, for one year, to decrease $\frac{1}{4}$ per bushel, each year after, till the whole is taken off. By which means it might be known, without any great *bazard**, how far the Bounty on Corn might be altered or withdrawn without discouraging Tillage.

Whilst a Bounty is allowed, we apprehend no better method can be found of ascertaining, that the prices do not exceed those to which it is payable, than the old method of the Exporter's oath, on making the entry in order to the taking out the debenture, that the average price of the Grain to be exported did not exceed the Bounty-price the last Market-day.

As to the IMPORTATION: in order to
§. 5. know if any new regulations or alterations in the duties payable on Corn imported, and in regard to opening the ports for that purpose should be made; it is necessary, first, to give a short account how these matters now stand.

* Between the writing and printing these considerations, reasons have arisen to alter these opinions, as will be explained farther on, and distinguished thus †.

The Duties, payable for the several sorts of Grain on Importation, are noted by Mr. Saxby, in his Book of Rates, as follow.

Grain	Duties	Duties	Duties
Beans to 28s. per qr.	19s. 10d.	after till 40s. 16s. 8d.	then 12d.
Barley to 28s. —	19s. 10d.	— 32s. 16s.	— 12d.
Malt is prohibited.			
Oats to 16s. —	5s. 10d.	after —	— 9d. $\frac{1}{2}$
Peas to 40s. —	16s. 0d.	after —	— 9d. $\frac{1}{2}$
Rye to 36s. —	19s. 10d.	till 40s. 16s. 8d.	then 12d.
Wheat to 44s. —	21s. 9d.	till 53s. 4d. 17s.	then 8s.
till 4l. and after that about 1s. 4d.			
Buck-Wheat to 32s. per qr. to pay 16s.			

And the Collector of the Customs is to govern himself, in regard to taking the duties, by certificates of the prices of Corn, which may be made by the Justices of the Peace in every Quarter-session, except in *London*, where the Magistrates are empowered to certify in *October* and *April* only.

The above duties amount to a prohibition on each sort of Grain, except Oats*, till the prices are very high, which tends greatly to encourage our own Tillage, as hath been before observed; and therefore no

* It is to be observed, the importation of Oats hath far exceeded that of all other Grain, being more than two parts in three of the whole, as may be seen in the Collection of Papers, &c.

great alteration should be made. But there are some who are of opinion, that if Oats were to be charged 5s. 10d. till 18s. per quarter, and if the low duties were to commence on Beans at 36s. on Barley at 28s. on Rye at 36s. on Wheat and Peas at 50s. the affair would stand rather more on an equality, and no inconvenience could arise.

And they add farther, that it would be well if a certain price were fixed, at which, the same being duly certified, Corn might be imported, for a time certain, duty free; as nothing will tend more to keep the price moderate, and the desires of Farmers and all other holders of Corn within reasonable bounds, than being under a constant apprehension of such an Importation.

As to the present method of taking the duties according to the certificates of the price of Corn, made by the justices in every Quarter-session, and of the Magistrates in *London* in *October* and *April*, it seems founded in reason, and fit to be continued. For, if the Crop hath failed, it begins to be felt in *October*; and, if it is nearly expended, it is known in *April*; in which two months the Magistrates in *London* are to certify; and, if they certify that Corn is so high as to be imported at the low duty, the Importation must continue for six months; which, in regard to that port, is very reasonable, for, if they had it in their power to allow of the Importation for three months only, it would not be of any great utility, since nobody would venture to load any
quantity,

quantity, as the time might possibly elapse before the arrival, to the loss of the Importer. And the certificates of the justices in every Quarter-session out of *London* seem as proper in regard to the circumstances of most other places, and as well adapted for their service, as the regulation for *London* doth for the service thereof; for in them, or most of them, a small additional quantity will carry them on for three months; and, if enough doth not arrive in that time, they can continue the port open, by certifying anew, for three months longer.

These certificates may be made either in the Quarter-sessions, or at any adjournment thereof, and the making them seems to be discretionary, not compulsory; and that it should be so is quite necessary, since it may accidentally happen that the prices of Corn may, for one or two Market-days next before the Sessions, be at so high a rate, as to allow of the Importation, and an Importation improperly allowed may be very hurtful to the Farmer.

Therefore, the method, that hath at some times been taken, of adjourning the Sessions for this particular purpose, is very prudent, and it might be proper always to adjourn the consideration of all petitions as may be presented in regard to this affair in the *Michaelmas*-sessions, till about the 20th of *November*, as by that time it will be known if the high prices are owing to the shortness of the Crops, lateness of the Harvest, want of arrivals, or to any other cause.

When

When Corn is once imported, in pursuance of these certificates, it cannot be reshipped, except for Exportation abroad, and not to carry coast-ways in *Britain*; and with good reason; for, particular Importations should be so ordered, that, whilst they are of service to the place for which they are intended, they may not hurt the Farmers in other parts. So far for particular Importations; for, the Laws as they now stand regard no other.

General IMPORTATIONS have been effected by our Legislators of the greatest moment, and they can never be permitted but by a new Law expressly made for that purpose, as is at present the case; and, if ever the power of permitting them is intrusted by the Parliament to any but themselves, it seems as if it can be no where safely lodged but in the King and Council; and, whenever the question comes before them, they will undoubtedly proceed with the greatest caution; the state of the Markets in all foreign parts, from which Corn may be imported, as well as the state of our own Markets throughout the Kingdom, and the time of the year, will be considered.

At *Michaelmas*, a late harvest may make Corn in general dear for a time, although there may be a sufficient stock in the Kingdom; then and at all times contrary winds, and in war-time want of convoy, and every other means which tend to prevent the free transportation or circulation of Grain from one part

part of the Nation to another, (which circulation there can be no doubt but all in power, in imitation of the Legislature, will always promote, protect, and encourage,) may make Corn dear in particular places; and if a sudden rise in the price, occasioned by the above or any other accidental stops in the circulation, should at any time be mistaken for a real scarcity, and a general importation allowed, it may be the cause of having so much Corn imported in six months, and such Importation will scarcely ever be granted for a less time, as to make our own Farmers labour for nothing the whole year, or perhaps longer, and consequently greatly discourage Tillage.

It will throw some light on this reasoning to consider, that a general failure of the Crops throughout *Europe* is but rarely the case, and though it may happen, that our own growth may be so short as to require a permission of either a general or particular Importation; yet, at the same time, some neighbouring Kingdoms may have so much Corn to spare, as, if either is allowed without restriction, to be able in a few months to import so great a quantity, that our own Farmers may not be able to get a common price, though they have but a very short Crop; which was the case a few years since in the port of *London*, with regard to Oats.

When a general Importation is allowed, it should not be for less than six months, for the same reason

as in the particular at *London* *, viz. a small quantity would be of little or no use; and, if the time limited for importation is too short, no great quantity can arrive.

As in particular Importations none of the Corn imported should be reshipped, to be carried coast-ways in *Great Britain*, because such Importations are for the service of particular parts of the Kingdom; so, on the contrary, whenever a general Importation is allowed, the Corn imported should be permitted to be reshipped and carried coast-ways to any other part of the Kingdom with the same freedom as Corn of our own growth, because such Importations are for the benefit of the Kingdom in general.

There is an opinion, that, as the Law now stands, the Exportation of Grain can be prohibited only by the *Parliament* †, which may, strictly speaking, be true, more especially in time of peace; but surely the King by his prerogative may at any time, particularly in time of war, prevent it by an embargo. And it might be proper to empower him to do it at all times by proclamation, with the advice of his Council, which Mr. *Burn* says he may, and quotes an Act 1 *Ja. I.* but this power was only an exception to that Act, and was, at least virtually, repealed both by 22 *Car. II.* and 1 *Wm. and Mary.*

* Altered last Sessions to every three months.

† This opinion appears to be right, by the passing of the Act of 5 *Geo. III.* cap. 31. to authorise the King and council to prohibit the Exportation of Wheat during the prorogation in 1765.

The Parliament hath, in the Act for suspending the Laws till *Christmas* next, 1759, reserved a power of making any alteration during their present Sessions, and if Corn continues cheap, and it can be done without hazard of assisting the enemy, they may possibly allow an Exportation *, and it deserves consideration; if that be done, whether it should not be without a Bounty for the remainder of the year, as was the case in 1699; and, whenever Corn is allowed to be exported again with a Bounty, whether an inquiry should not be made, if there is any foundation for the rumour of the Bounty having been paid for great quantities of Corn which were never exported †.

Nothing but experience can shew, how far any of the alterations here proposed may be of service.

* It was by Stat. 32 Geo. II. c. 8. allowed to be exported without any restriction, and with the Bounty.

† A report, which hath long subsided, was current in the year 1759, that, in some of the out-ports, means had been found to impose on the officers of the Customs, in whose presence the Corn is measured into every vessel, the first time she loads in bulk, and to make them certify, that many of them held more than in fact they did: If there was any truth in this report, surely it could not be done as to Malt; for, by Stat. 3. G. II. c. 7. §. 14 and 15. all Malt made for Exportation is to be locked up by, and shipped under the inspection of, the Excise officer.

However, all frauds in the Exportation of Corn may easily be prevented for the future, by making the Bounty payable on the proof that the Corn is landed according to the Entry, or lost; which proof the Master of the Vessel might be bound to make in like manner as he is in regard to his having made the payments to *Greenwich Hospital*.

We are certain that the present Corn-laws have had their desired effect, and therefore should alter them with great caution; and this the rather, since, how light soever some amongst us may think of them, two very sensible late *French* Authors * attribute to them, and to the Act of navigation, the present figure we make in *Europe*, and press the making the like for their own Kingdom.

† And the sentiments of those writers
§ 7. have been so far adopted by the government, that, between the writing and printing these *Considerations*, the King hath published two remarkable EDICTS ||, one allowing all persons to trade in Corn, and to circulate it freely throughout the whole kingdom; the other authorizing and encouraging the Exportation and Importation thereof: the Exportation to cease when Wheat hath been, for three following Market-days, at a price which answers to about 48 s. our quarter, Statute-measure; and there are those who say, that they are fully persuaded they shall live to see as good a Bounty given for Corn exported from *France* as is given from *England*.

† These proceeding of the *French* should at least put us on our guard as to any alterations we may

* *Les Intérêts de la France mal entendus*, and *L'Ami des Hommes*.

|| See an account of them, Supp. ch. 2. sec. 8 and 9.

think

think of making in relation to the Bounty; for, if those Edicts are continued and attended with success, we shall not only lose our Corn-trade in *France*, but also meet the *French*, as competitors in that Trade, in all other foreign Markets.

† Therefore the hints thrown out, page 93, of reducing the Bounty, paying it to the prices there-mentioned, and taking it entirely off by degrees, which in 1759 it was thought might be attempted *without any great hazard*, seem now in the year 1766 highly improper; and that it would be wrong even to think of taking the Bounty entirely off, or to reduce it, and at the same time pay it to less prices. One of the last two may, however, surely be done, without any great risk; and we might either continue the same Bounties, but payable to less prices, say Wheat to 40s. and the rest in proportion; or reduce them, say one third, and continue to pay them to the same prices as at present.

† Was the first carried into execution, we should in general continue to send our Corn to foreign Markets on as good terms as heretofore, but, when it should happen to rise to the prices at which the Bounty would cease, it would be so great and sudden a check as might turn the Trade into another channel for some time; and it may accidentally rise to that price either just before or soon after Harvest,
and

and yet, at the same time, the stock in hand may be so large that a great quantity may be spared for Exportation, and Corn sold for a moderate price in the remaining part of the year and until the next Harvest.

† If the second was to be the Law, as the Markets abroad always regulate the prices at which Corn is bought here for Exportation, the Merchant must always buy at so much less as the deduction in the Bounty, to be on a par with them; and, consequently, what he shall buy will tend less to raise the Market here, a very large sum would be annually saved in the Bounty, and no interruption would happen to the Exportation-trade, by the ceasing of the Bounty, until the high price should require it.

The purport of all that hath been
CONCLUSION. said is this, that as the variety of the seasons will always prevent the price of Corn being fixed by a Law, and, could it be done, it would be attended with inconveniences, and the attempt would discourage Tillage, therefore all that can be done is to regulate the matter so, that it may be kept in a due medium, which our present Laws have done beyond expectation; and, consequently, that every attempt to alter them, with the least probability of success, must be made by comparing the state of the affair before the time they were made with the state thereof since they

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have

have been in force, which hath been endeavoured, with what propriety we freely submit, but could wish, whether any alteration is made or not, all the Laws relating to the Corn-trade were reduced into one Act of Parliament.

T A B L E

OF

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A

COLLECTION OF PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

PRICE, EXPORTATION,

AND

IMPORTATION, OF CORN:

WITH SOME

OBSERVATIONS AND CALCULATIONS,

SHewing

What the Nation may be supposed to have gained by giving the Bounty on the Exportation. What the quantity of each sort of Corn annually Consumed, Exported, Imported, and Grown, may amount to, and the proportions they severally bear each to the other.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Papers have been published, in part at least, by others, except the accounts of the Importation; but it is not remembered that they have been viewed or considered in the same light as in this Collection.

COLLECTIO

OF

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO THE

PRICE, EXPORTATION, AND IMPORTA-
TION, OF CORN, &c.

AN account of the true Market-price of
Wheat and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 in-
clusive to 1765 exclusive. Taken from the Audit-
books in *Eton* College.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1595	—	2	0	—	1	0
1596	—	2	8	—	1	6
1597	—	3	9	—	2	6
1598	—	2	16	—	1	12
1599	—	1	19	—	1	3
1600	—	1	17	—	1	0
			H 2			1601

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windfor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1601	—	1	14 10	—	1	4 6
1602	—	1	9 4	—	1	7 4
1603	—	1	15 4	—	1	4 8
1604	—	1	10 8	—	1	4 6
*1605	—	1	15 10	—	1	2 0
1606	—	1	13 0	—	1	9 4
1607	—	1	16 8	—	1	8 4
1608	—	2	16 8	—	1	4 0
1609	—	2	10 0	—	1	9 0
1610	—	1	15 10	—	1	9 4
1611	—	1	18 8	—	1	9 8
1612	—	2	2 4	—	1	5 4
1613	—	2	8 8	—	1	6 4
1614	—	2	1 8 4	—	1	7 0
1615	—	1	18 8	—	1	5 4
1616	—	2	0 4	—	1	4 8
1617	—	2	8 8	—	1	0 4
1618	—	2	6 8	—	1	0 0
1619	—	1	15 4	—	1	9 8
1620	—	1	10 4	—	1	8 8
1621	—	1	10 4	—	1	6 0
1622	—	2	18 8	—	1	6 0
1623	—	2	12 0	—	1	11 2
1624	—	2	8 0	—	1	3 4

* Note, these are the last years included in each average.

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn. 113.

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and
Malt in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to
 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
*1625	—	2	12 0	—	1	6
1626	—	2	9 4	—	1	7 8
1627	—	1	16 0	—	1	0 0
1628	—	1	8 0	—	1	8 0
1629	—	2	2 0	—	1	4 0
1630	—	2	15 8	—	1	14 0
1631	—	3	8 0	—	1	18 8
1632	—	2	13 4	—	1	11 0
1633	—	2	18 0	—	1	8 0
1634	—	2	16 0	—	1	12 4
1635	—	2	16 0	—	1	7 8
1636	—	2	16 8	—	1	8 8
1637	—	2	13 0	—	1	19 4
1638	—	2	17 4	—	2	2 4
1639	—	2	4 10	—	1	11 8½
1640	—	2	4 8	—	1	7 8
1641	—	2	8 0	—	1	9 0
1642	wanting in the account. The year 1646 supplied by Bishop Fleetwood.					
1643						
1644						
*1645	—	2	8 0	—	1	9 0
1646	—	3	13 8	—	1	17 0
1647	—	4	5 0	—	2	0 0
1648	—	4	0 0	—	2	2 0
1649	—	3	16 8	—	1	18 6

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and
Malt in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to
 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat gr.			Malt gr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1651	—	3	13	4	—	1
1652	—	2	9	6	—	1
1653	—	1	15	6	—	1
1654	—	1	6	0	—	1
1655	—	1	13	4	—	1
1656	—	2	3	0	—	1
1657	—	2	6	8	—	1
1658	—	3	5	0	—	1
1659	—	3	6	0	—	2
1660	—	2	16	6	—	1
1661	—	3	10	0	—	1
1662	—	3	14	0	—	2
1663	—	2	17	0	—	1
1664	—	2	0	6	—	1
*1665	—	2	9	4	—	1
1666	—	1	16	0	—	1
1667	—	1	16	0	—	1
1668	—	2	0	0	—	1
1669	—	2	4	4	—	1
1670	—	2	1	8	—	1
1671	—	2	2	0	—	1
1672	—	2	1	0	—	1
1673	—	2	6	8	—	1
1674	—	3	8	8	—	1
1675	—	3	4	8	—	1
1676	—	1	18	0	—	1

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and
Malt in *Windfor* Market from 1595 inclusive to
 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat gr.			Malt gr.		
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1677	—	2	2 0	—	1	8 0
1678	—	2	19 0	—	1	8 8
1679	—	3	0 0	—	1	6 8
1680	—	2	5 0	—	1	2 8
1681	—	2	6 8	—	1	4 8
1682	—	2	4 0	—	1	8 0
1683	—	2	0 0	—	1	8 8
1684	—	2	4 0	—	1	5 4
*1685	—	2	6 8	—	1	8 0
1686	—	1	14 0	—	1	5 4
1687	—	1	5 2	—	1	4 0
1688	—	2	6 0	—	1	2 0
1689	—	1	10 0	—	1	0 0
1690	—	1	14 8	—	19	4
1691	—	1	14 0	—	17	4
1692	—	2	6 8	—	1	4 4
1693	—	3	7 8	—	1	10 0
1694	—	3	4 0	—	1	12 0
1695	—	2	13 0	—	1	12 0
1696	—	3	11 0	—	1	8 0
1697	—	3	0 0	—	1	8 0
1698	—	3	8 4	—	1	12 0
1699	—	3	4 0	—	1	19 4
1700	—	2	0 0	—	1	11 4
1701	—	1	17 8	—	1	4 0
1702	—	1	9 6	—	1	8 0

An account of the true Market price of *Wheat* and
Malt in *Windsor Market* from 1595 inclusive to
 1765 exclusive.

Year.	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1703	—	1	16	0	—	—
1704	—	2	6	6	—	—
*1705	—	1	10	0	—	—
1706	—	1	6	0	—	—
1707	—	1	8	6	—	—
1708	—	2	1	6	—	—
1709	—	3	18	6	—	—
1710	—	3	18	0	—	—
1711	—	2	14	0	—	—
1712	—	2	6	4	—	—
1713	—	2	11	0	—	—
1714	—	2	10	4	—	—
1715	—	2	3	0	—	—
1716	—	2	8	0	—	—
1717	—	2	5	8	—	—
1718	—	1	18	10	—	—
1719	—	1	15	0	—	—
1720	—	1	17	0	—	—
1721	—	1	17	6	—	—
1722	—	1	16	0	—	—
1723	—	1	14	8	—	—
1724	—	1	17	0	—	—
*1725	—	2	8	6	—	—
1726	—	2	6	0	—	—
1727	—	2	2	0	—	—

1728

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn. 17

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Mals* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1728	—	2	14 6	—	1	12 0
1729	—	2	6 10	—	1	15 4
1730	—	1	16 6	—	1	7 0
1731	—	1	12 10	—	1	10 5
1732	—	1	6 8	—	1	5 8
1733	—	1	8 4	—	1	12 8
1734	—	1	18 10	—	1	12 8
1735	—	2	3 0	—	1	2 8
1736	—	2	0 4	—	1	4 0
1737	—	1	18 0	—	1	6 8
1738	—	1	15 6	—	1	8 0
1739	—	1	18 6	—	1	6 0
1740	—	2	10 8	—	1	12 0
1741	—	2	6 8	—	1	12 8
1742	—	1	14 0	—	1	10 8
1743	—	1	4 10	—	1	8 8
1744	—	1	4 10	—	1	4 8
*1745	—	1	7 6	—	1	3 4
1746	—	1	19 0	—	1	2 4
1747	—	1	14 10	—	1	2 8
1748	—	1	17 0	—	1	3 4
1749	—	1	17 0	—	1	5 4
1750	—	1	12 6	—	1	5 4
1751	—	1	18 6	—	1	6 0
1752	—	2	1 10	—	1	7 4

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
1753	—	2	4 8	—	1	7 4
1754	—	1	14 8	—	1	8 0
1755	—	1	13 10	—	1	5 4
1756	—	2	5 3	—	1	6 0
1757	—	3	0 0	—	1	16 0
1758	—	2	10 0	—	1	16 0
1759	—	1	19 10	—	1	7 4
1760	—	1	16 6	—	1	6 0
1761	—	1	10 3	—	1	5 4
1762	—	1	19 0	—	1	7 4
1763	—	2	0 9	—	1	16 0
*1764	—	2	6 9	—	1	14 0

Note. In the foregoing computations you are to know, that in every year there are two prices of Corn, the one at *Lady-day*, the other at *Michaelmas*; both which are put together, and the half is taken for the common price of that year, and the tax is deducted from the price of Malt.

Since printing the former Edition the accounts for 1765 and 1766 have been obtained, and are

1765	—	2	14 0	—	1	12 8
1766	—	2	8 6	—	1	14 0

That is, on the average London Measure,

1765	—	2	2 8	—	1	5 9 $\frac{7}{8}$
1766	—	1	18 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1	6 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Average of the two years.

2	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1	6 4
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A TABLE of Averages of the foregoing prices of *Wheat* and *Malt*.

Number of years and when.			Averages.	
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
11	1595	1606	2 1 6½	1 3 9½
20	1606	1626	2 3 2½	1 2 9
20	1626	1646	2 10 5	1 10 0
20	1646	1666	2 17 5½	1 12 0½
20	1666	1686	2 6 3½	1 6 7
20	1686	1706	2 5 10½	1 6 8
20	1706	1726	2 4 9	1 8 2½
20	1726	1746	1 17 9½	1 7 0½
19	1746	1765	2 0 1½	1 7 8½
51	1595	1646	2 5 3½	1 5 5½
40	1646	1686	2 11 10½	1 9 4
40	1686	1726	2 5 3½	1 7 5½
39	1726	1765	1 18 11½	1 7 4
91	1595	1686	2 8 2½	1 7 7½
79	1686	1765	2 2 0½	1 7 4½
170	1595	1765	2 5 4	1 7 5½

These averages are taken to such particular years, that those as were struck by Bishop *Fleetwood* might stand here, as he hath given them; and the chasm of 1642, 3, 4, and 5, is not here regarded; but the average of the sixteen years, from 1625 to 1642, is taken for that of the twenty years from 1625 to 1646, as it can make no great difference in the said

twenty, and scarcely any in the whole one hundred and seventy, years.

The way the College comes at these prices is this: The College Baker and Brewer attend *Windfor* Market on the Market-days next before *Lady-Day* and *Michaelmas*; and bring an account of the highest prices, that Wheat and Malt are sold for in the Market on those days, to the Provost and Fellows: and it cannot be doubted but they are taken with great care; for, according thereto, the Rents are settled for the current year, it being only left to the tenant's option whether he will pay in Wheat and Malt in kind, or in Money, at the said Market-price.

As these are the prices of the best Wheat and Malt, and the bushel at *Windfor* contains nine gallons, they by no means give a true state of the mean or middle prices of the said Corn or Grain, or what the value would have been of all the Wheat fit for Bread, and all the Malt made from all the Barley fit for that purpose, supposing the whole of each to have been mixed together on two distinct heaps; or what each of them would have been worth or have sold for in each year; or what the respective averages at or for the times before noted would have been.

But yet the same may be found from them with great exactness; by deducting one ninth for the difference of the bushel above the Statute-measure, and the none ninth more from the remainder; for, it

hath

hath been found that the value of all the Wheat fit for bread, if mixed together, would be eight ninths of the value of the best Wheat, and the same proportion may reasonably be supposed in Barley.

This, however, would be too tedious to do here for the whole time, but the following table shews what the general averages are, according to such calculation.

10	170	170	170	170
9	160	160	160	160
8	150	150	150	150
7	140	140	140	140
6	130	130	130	130
5	120	120	120	120
4	110	110	110	110
3	100	100	100	100
2	90	90	90	90
1	80	80	80	80

A TABLE

A TABLE

A TABLE shewing the value of the quarter of middle Wheat and Malt in Windfor Market for several periods within 170 years, and for the whole time; Statute-measure.

Number of years and when.			Averages.	
No.	from.	to.	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
11	1595	1606	1 12 10 $\frac{7}{8}$	18 9 $\frac{3}{4}$
20	1606	1626	1 14 1 $\frac{1}{8}$	17 11 $\frac{6}{8}$
20	1626	1646	1 19 10	1 3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
20	1646	1666	2 5 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 5 4
20	1666	1686	1 16 7 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 1 0
20	1686	1706	1 16 3 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 1 0 $\frac{7}{8}$
20	1706	1726	1 15 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 2 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
20	1726	1746	1 9 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 1 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
19	1746	1765	1 11 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 1 10 $\frac{5}{8}$
51	1595	1646	1 15 9 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 0 1 $\frac{3}{8}$
40	1646	1686	2 0 11 $\frac{7}{8}$	1 3 2 $\frac{1}{8}$
40	1686	1726	1 15 9 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 1 8 $\frac{1}{8}$
39	1726	1765	1 10 9 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 1 7 $\frac{1}{8}$
91	1595	1686	1 18 0 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 1 10 $\frac{1}{8}$
79	1686	1765	1 13 2 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 1 7 $\frac{3}{8}$
170	1595	1765	1 15 9 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 1 8 $\frac{1}{8}$

From the foregoing accounts, and the last table, it is observable, that the prices of Wheat and Malt have not been higher since the Bounty hath been paid, which was first given in 1689; but, on the contrary, Wheat hath been considerably cheaper on the

whole, and continually on the decline; notwithstanding the Export hath continued to increase, and there is reason to believe, Bread made of Wheat is become more generally the food of the labouring part of the people than before the Bounty was given *, which difference in the price of Wheat is explained below, viz.

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From 1595 to 1686 Average	—	1	18	0
1686 to 1726 Average	—	1	15	9
Less for the first 40 years	—	6	2	3
From 1595 to 1686 Average	—	1	18	0
1726 to 1765 Average	—	1	10	9
Less for the last 39 years	—	0	7	3
From 1595 to 1686 Average	—	1	18	0
1686 to 1765 Average	—	1	13	2
Less for the last 79 years	—	0	4	10

and, if we compare the Average of the forty years immediately before that in which the Bounty took place with the average of the whole time since, the difference appears still greater.

* See supp. c. 3. sec. 16.

From 1646 to 1686 Average

1686 to 1765 Average

Less for the last 79 years

And hereby the utility and good effects of the Boun-
ty are manifested, in that Tillage hath been thereby
so encouraged and improved as to make Wheat chea-
per at home, and at the same time bring large sums
into the Kingdom for the Corn exported, of which
the following accounts have been laid before Parlia-
ment.

AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity of CORN exported from England, from Michaelmas 1696 to Christmas 1764, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Barley.		Malt.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	quarters.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
To Mich. 1697	32,855	—	51,811	5	295	23	2,596	4	14,698	6
Ditto 1698	30,984	6	44,526	6	151	7	1,275	2	6,857	1
Christm.* 1698	5	—	2,059	—	20	5	68	—	28	7
1699	75	—	1,511	3	391	6	405	—	557	2
1700	25,896	5	37,571	4	391	1	27,231	—	49,056	5
1701	21,953	2	50,447	1	285	5	43,917	—	98,323	7
1702	16,280	1	71,856	6	89	4	51,710	2	90,230	4
1703	71,523	7	123,291	2	159	2	58,438	4	106,615	4
1704	30,729	4	102,873	7	219	7	29,284	7	90,313	5
1705	21,386	6	137,396	2	100	4	24,059	4	96,185	1
1706	10,221	3	141,084	4	62	2	49,892	2	188,332	3

* No Export for one year.

† No Bounty for about ten months.

ACCOUNT

of CORN exported continued

ACCOUNT of CORN exported continued.

Years.	Barley.		Malt.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
*1707	4,771	3	111,253	1	103	7	34,032	—	74,155	1
1708	29,937	6	97,789	3	67	6	4,726	3	82,406	3
1709	40,512	6	339,934	4	32	5	166,512	5	109,679	7
1710	5,744	5	79,530	4	225	1	12,215	6	13,924	1
1711	8,412	6	139,975	7	321	4	37,957	4	76,949	—
1712	19,838	5	191,624	5	393	5	17,735	3	145,191	—
1713	52,542	—	217,935	7	1,376	—	38,025	7	176,227	—
1714	18,579	5	220,274	7	129	0	20,455	—	174,821	—
1715	5,080	1	103,395	1	293	5	31,191	2	166,498	2
1716	14,857	—	226,617	—	719	6	49,123	1	74,926	1
1717	18,435	7	258,083	1	404	1	23,931	6	22,913	7
1718	71,139	7	303,133	3	868	5	49,416	6	71,800	—

* Bounty on Oatmeal commenced.

† No Export for one year.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of CORN exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1719	9,649	3	357,499	1	219	3	45,592	2	127,762	4
1720	4,576	6	253,503	6	13,421	4	49,241	3	83,084	2
1721	11,608	3	338,942	6	15,777	7	69,697	5	81,632	3
1722	37,528	7	366,728	2	13,324	4	42,579	6	178,880	3
1723	45,789	6	395,063	5	15,411	5	127,237	4	157,719	6
1724	10,298	5	241,895	1	3,516	4	23,441	4	245,864	6
1725	13,782	6	294,025	1	14,447	4	20,559	5	204,413	3
1726	20,017	1	335,925	5	4,412	6	18,835	2	142,183	3
1727	8,688	4	241,428	4	2,204	7	9,169	3	30,315	3
1728	198	2	195,340	6	11,383	2	13	5	18,817	3
1729	4,650	4	130,743	7	2,541	—	1,460	3	18,993	3
1730	14,982	3	179,446	2	4,479	2	12,394	4	93,970	7

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of CORN exported continued.

Year	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1731	13,562	2	177,699	4	1,808	1	21,089	7	130,025	2
1732	13,874	6	161,075	4	1,274	7	15,535	5	202,058	4
1733	37,598	-	203,115	-	1,487	4	28,155	1	427,199	-
1734	70,224	5	233,124	-	3,038	6	10,735	-	498,196	4
1735	57,520	3	219,781	7	1,920	6	1,329	4	153,343	5
1736	6,860	1	192,602	4	1,196	5	1,270	5	118,170	7
1737	23,669	5	103,718	2	1,921	4	7,849	3	461,602	-
1738	70,689	6	188,607	7	1,777	3	36,159	1	580,596	4
1739	54,447	1	191,876	6	1,116	3	29,791	2	279,542	4
1740	24,036	6	145,527	5	2,571	7	8,979	4	54,390	4
* 1741	6,614	1	123,357	6	1,106	6	7,622	1	45,416	7
1742	11,482	4	189,525	7	1,380	2	63,272	2	293,259	6

* No Export for one year.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of CORN exported continued.

Years.	Barley No. 1		Male		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs. 18	b.	qrs. 10	b.	qrs. 10	b.	qrs. 10	b.	qrs. 12	b.
1743	34,995	1	219,217	3	1,882	3	88,272	7	375,431	3
1744	20,090	1	219,862	4	1,657	6	74,169	7	231,084	5
1745	95,878	7	219,354	6	9,770	3	83,966	2	324,839	5
1746	158,719	3	282,024	6	20,803	1	45,782	3	130,646	2
1747	103,140	2	361,189	3	2,122	4	92,718	3	266,906	7
1748	73,857	1	349,363	4	3,768	4	103,891	4	543,387	5
1749	52,621	3	355,469	5	1,281	2	106,312	4	629,049	1
1750	224,500	7	330,754	1	4,283	4	99,049	3	947,602	1
1751	32,698	1	256,547	4	2,476	2	71,048	4	661,416	4
1752	106,331	3	287,578	6	1,590	1	57,847	2	429,279	4
1753	67,049	1	274,444	7	7,012	1	24,835	7	299,608	7
1754	47,776	3	321,995	1	2,330	2	42,915	1	350,270	1

ACCOUNT

of CORN exported continued.

ACCOUNT of CORN exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1755	32,836	—	341,568	6	1,122	2	43,441	7	237,459	2
*1756	26,938	5	236,925	6	2,320	4	29,968	7	101,936	4
+1757	7,094	7	56,164	2	4,417	6	9 07	1	11,226	—
1758	691	—	80,728	1	1,831	4	—	—	9,233	6
1759	22,862	4	166,079	—	3,134	6	41,480	2	226,426	—
1760	34,392	4	224,195	1	2,338	4	51,776	4	590,710	4
1761	97,897	1	279,051	5	2,839	6	57,571	1	440,746	2
1762	130,873	—	254,429	5	1,368	4	28,440	2	294,500	—
1763	38,390	1	165,494	—	1,664	4	13,933	7	427,074	3
1764	9,218	6	223,220	15	1,101	—	27,690	11	326,537	5

* Christmas 1756 to March 1759 no Export.

† Import duty free to August, about eight months.

TOTALS

Totals of the foregoing account of Corn exported, distinguishing each fort.

Totals of the foregoing account of Corn exported, distinguishing each fort.

Years.		Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	251,684	7	623,345	4	2,015	4	238,985	7	552,867	2
1706	1726	433,237	2	4,381,205	—	11,922	1	789,618	6	2,518,213	4
1726	1746	590,080	6	3,871,332	4	45,932	3	520,020	6	4,461,337	4
1746	1765	1268,088	1	4,777,303	6	67,186	4	939,580	7	6,800,017	1
1697	1765	2,543,096	0	13,653,186	6	127,056	4	2,488,206	2	14,332,435	3
Amount of all the Corn exported.											
Years.		from to		No.		quarters		per annum		b.	
1697	1706	1706	1706	9	1,668,904	—	185,433	6	185,433	6	6
1706	1726	1726	1726	20	8,134,196	5	406,709	2	406,709	2	2
1726	1746	1746	1746	20	9,488,703	7	474,435	1	474,435	1	1
1746	1765	1765	1765	19	13,852,176	3	729,001	7	729,001	7	7
1697	1765	1765	1765	68	33,143,980	7	487,411	3	487,411	3	3
										Average	
										Average of the last 39 years, viz.	
										598,484 Qrs.	

Average of the quantity of each species of Grain annually exported, and the value of the middle quarter thereof.

Years.		Quantity.									
		Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	27,965	4	69,260	5	223	7	26,554	0	61,429	6
1706	1726	21,661	3	219,060	3	596	0	39,480	7	125,910	5
1726	1746	29,504	-	193,566	5	2,296	5	26,001	0	223,066	7
1746	1765	66,741	4	251,437	0	3,536	1	49,451	5	357,895	5
1697	1765	37,398	4	200,782	1	1,868	4	36,501	2	210,771	-
		Price.									
		Barley		Malt		Oats		Rye		Wheat	
from	to										
1697	1706	0 16	6	1	0	0 12	4	1	4	1 16	3
1706	1726	0 18	8	1	2	0 14	0	1	3	1 15	4
1726	1746	0 17	9	1	1	0 13	3	0	19	1 9	10
1746	1765	0 18	3	1	1	0 13	8	1	1	1 11	8
1697	1765	0 18	0	1	1	0 13	6	1	2	1 11	3

Table of the average quantity of Grain annually exported, and the value of the middle quarter thereof.

Note. The prices of Wheat and Malt in the last page are taken from the table page 122, the price of Barley is the same as Malt, deducting 3s. 7d. per quarter for making: the price of Oats is calculated at three-fourths of the price of Barley; and the price of Rye is calculated at two-thirds of the price of Wheat, which proportions are frequently, or rather generally, found between their respective prices.

The said price of Malt however is to be understood of that made for home-consumption only; for, by Stat. 3 G. II. c. 7. sec. 14. and 15. three quarters of Malt is to be allowed for every two quarters of Barley when malted for exportation, and the Bounty is paid accordingly.

Now, two quarters of Barley having been worth on the average only 36s. we ought not to suppose three quarters of the Malt set down in the said account as exported, worth more, *i. e.* 12s. per quarter.

Here follow the accounts of the sums paid for Bounties on the foregoing quantities of Corn exported.

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from England from 1697 to 1706, being NINE years, with the annual averages:

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	251,689	7	—	2	6	31,461	23 8½
Malt	623,345	4	—	2	6	77,918	3 9
Oatmeal	2,015	4	—	2	6	251	18 9
Rye	238,985	7	—	3	6	41,822	10 7½
Wheat	552,867	2	—	5	0	138,216	16 3½
Quarters	1,668,904	0				£. 289,670	14 0½
Averages	185,433	6				£. 32,185	12 8

Account

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1706 to 1746, being TWENTY years, with the annual averages:

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	433,237	2	—	2	6	—	54,154 13 11
Malt	4,382,205	0	—	2	6	—	547,650 12 0
Oats	11,922	1	—	2	6	—	1,490 5 3
Rye	989,611	6	—	3	6	—	128,183 5 7
Wheat	2,518,213	4	—	5	0	—	629,553 2 6
Quarters	8,134,196	5			£. 1,371,032	4	0
Averages	406,709	2			£. 68,551	12	2

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1746 to 1766, being TWENTY years, with the annual averages:

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	590,080	6	—	2	6	—	73,760 1 10
Malt	3,871,332	4	—	2	6	—	483,916 11 3
Oatmeal	45,932	3	—	2	6	—	5,741 10 11
Rye	520,020	6	—	3	6	—	91,003 12 7
Wheat	4,461,337	4	—	5	0	—	1,115,334 7 6
Quarters	9,488,703	7			£. 1,769,756	4	2
Averages	474,435	1			£. 188,487	16	2

Account

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1746 to 1765, being NINETEEN years, with the annual averages.

Barley	1,268,088	1 — 2 6 —	158,511	0 32
Malt	4,777,303	6 — 2 6 —	579,162	19 43
Oatmeal	67,186	4 — 2 6 —	8,398	6 3
Rye —	939,580	7 — 3 6 —	164,426	13 1
Wheat	6,800,017	1 — 5 0 —	1,700,004	5 7½
Quarters	13,852,176	3	£. 2,628,503	4 7½
Averages	729,061	7	£. 138,542	5 6

An account of the total amounts and annual averages of the several Bounties which have been paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1697 to 1765, being sixty-eight years.

Names.	Quantities.	Bounty per qr.	Sums total.		Annual.	
			l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.
Barley	qrs. 2,543,066	b —	317,887	0	4,674	16
Malt	13,653,186	6	1,706,648	6	25,097	15
Oatmeal	127,056	4	15,882	1	233	11
Rye	2,488,206	2	435,436	1	6,403	9
Wheat	14,332,435	3	3,583,108	16	52,692	15
Total qrs.	33,143,980	7	£.6,058,962	6	—	—
Ann. Export	487,411	3	Annual Bountv	89,102	7	9

Note, In all these calculations the Export from *Michelmoo*, to *Chilmas* 1696 is taken as part of 1697, which is inclusive, and 1765 exclusive.

It would have given us great pleasure to have been able to have begun the foregoing accounts from 1689, when the Bounty took place; but we do not find them made up farther back, and it is most probable that before 1697 the Export was not considerable enough for notice; as a course of nine years cannot be thought too long to have elapsed before the laws could operate so far as to enable us to export any material quantity, *who*, before they took place, used to be frequently large *Importers*†.

During the foregoing period of sixty-eight years the *Export* hath with some few exceptions been prohibited four several times, *viz.* from *Feb.* 10, 1693; for one year, from *Nov.* 18, 1709, to *Sept.* 29, 1710; from *Dec.* 1740, to *Dec.* 25, 1741; and from *Dec.* 1756, to *Dec.* 27, 1757. Which last prohibition was prolonged to *Dec.* 25, 1758, and continued to *March* 25, 1769. And from *Feb.* 12, 1788, to *Sept.* 29, 1700, no Bounty was paid on any Corn exported; nor was any payable on Oatmeal exported till *May* 1, 1707.

Which prohibitions, non-payment of Bounty, and none being paid on Oatmeal at first, would, all together, make a considerable deduction from the moneys in the preceeding pages, could we distinguish their amount; but no account thereof, as we can learn, hath been made out by Authority, no more than of such Grain as hath been exported, for which

* See Note p. 45. and supp. ch. 2. sec. 12 and 13.

no Bounty is at any time payable. For these reasons, and because it is intended in these observations to give the objections to paying the Bounty their full force, no notice is taken thereof in these accounts, and the Bounty is supposed to have been paid on all the Corn exported of every sort for the whole *sixty-eight* years.

An account of the quantity of Corn imported into England, from Michaelmas 1696 to Christmas 1764, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Barley.		Oats.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	quarters.	b.	qrs,	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
To Mich. 1697	211	4	—	—	1	4	—	2	400	—
Ditto 1698	150	—	520	—	—	—	3,622	—	845	—
Chrism. 1698	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	844	—
1699	—	—	1,280	4	—	5	350	4	486	3
1700	—	—	234	4	—	—	—	—	4	6
1701	—	—	20	4	—	—	—	—	1	1
1702	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1703	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	50	6
1704	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1705	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1706	—	—	98	4	480	1	—	—	77	1
ACCOUNT										

ACCOUNT of CORN imported continued.

Years.	Barley.		Oats.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1707	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	86	4
1708	—	—	70	4	—	—	—	—	1,552	3
1709	606	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	400	—
1710	576	—	139	3	113	3	—	—	—	—
1711	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1712	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1713	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1714	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	15	7
1715	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
1716	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1717	—	—	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1718	—	—	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1719	—	—	300	—	—	—	—	—	20	1
1720	252	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1721	245	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley.		Oats.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1722	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1723	—	—	112	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1724	—	—	61,630	3	—	—	—	—	148	2
1725	—	—	2,152	4	—	—	—	4	12	2
1726	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1727	100	—	15	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1728	11,745	—	70,070	1	—	—	42,205	6	74,574	2
1729	11,201	6	184,071	—	21	3	132,045	7	40,315	2
1730	386	1	95,149	4	—	—	—	—	75	7
1731	3,503	—	15,892	7	—	—	—	—	4	—
1732	—	—	12,044	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
1733	—	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	7	4
1734	—	1	9	—	—	—	—	—	6	5
1735	—	—	6,439	—	—	—	—	—	9	1
1736	—	—	267	5	—	—	—	—	16	5

ACCOUNT

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn. 141

ACCOUNT of CORN imported continued.

Years.	Barley.		Oats.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1737	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	32	4
1738	—	7	21	3	—	—	—	—	2	5
1739	—	3	32	—	—	—	—	—	22	7
1740	—	—	1,333	3	—	—	1,090	—	5,468	5
1741	15,132	2	84,821	7	—	—	11,012	4	7,540	2
1742	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
1743	—	—	12	6	—	—	—	—	2	5
1744	—	—	67	6	—	—	—	—	2	—
1745	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	5	6
1746	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1747	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1748	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1749	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
1750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	382	—
1751	—	—	20	3	—	—	—	—	279	5
	—	—	2,291	1	—	—	—	—	3	—

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of CORN imported continued.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT of CORN imported continued.

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn.

Years.	Barley.		Oats.		Oatmeal.		Rye.		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1752	—	2	250	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
1753	—	—	33	3	2	4	—	—	—	—
1754	—	—	52,421	7	—	—	—	—	201	—
1755	—	—	1,591	2	292	—	—	—	—	—
1756	4	6	41,390	—	5,280	4	1,695	—	5	—
1757	5,781	1	7,460	2	298	3	7,861	—	130,343	2
1758	9,752	2	12,276	2	1,563	7	—	—	19,039	7
1759	42	4	321	4	13	2	—	—	81	1
1760	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	—	—	—
1761	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1762	942	3	16,570	1	829	6	—	—	56	2
1763	3,227	7	217,637	5	836	5	—	—	8	1
1764	5,110	2	122,477	3	11,892	3	—	—	1	1

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TOTALS

TOTALS of the foregoing account of Corn imported, distinguishing each fort.

Years.		Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	361	7	2,056	4	5	5	3,972	6	2,633	—
1706	1726	1,879	—	64,622	6	593	7	—	6	2,313	—
1726	1746	48,073	6	470,314	2	21	6	186,354	—	128,087	3
1746	1765	24,901	3	474,762	1	21,023	—	9,556	7	150,407	5
1697	1765	75,216	—	1,011,755	5	21,643	2	190,884	3	283,441	—
Amount of all the Corn imported.											
Years.		No.		quarters.		b.		per annum			
from	to										
1697	1706	9		9,028		6		1,003		1	
1706	1726	20		69,409		3		3,470		4	
1726	1746	20		832,851		1		41,642		4	
1746	1765	19		680,651		—		35,823		6	
1697	1765	68		1,591,940		2		23,410		7	

Average of the quantity of each species of Grain annually imported

1697 1765 68 1,591,940 2 23,410 7

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn.

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Average of the quantity of each species of Grain annually imported.

Y years.		Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		W heat.		
from	to	No.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	9	40	2	228	4	—	4	441	3	292	4
1706	1726	20	94	—	3,231	1	29	5	—	—	115	5
1726	1746	20	2,403	4	23,515	6	1	1	9,317	4	6,404	2
1746	1765	19	1,310	4	44,987	6	1,106	4	303	—	7,916	2
1697	1765	68	1,106	—	14,878	7	318	2	2,939	4	4,168	1

Note, The importation of Malt is prohibited, and yet 381 qrs. 4b. have been imported since 1697, which are included in the above account of Barley: and, although the Oats are here inserted, no notice is taken, in the foregoing account, of Exports, of either Oats, Beans, Pease, or any Grain, on which no Bounty is given; the quantity of the first, it must be acknowledged, is very small, but the quantities of the two last are at some times pretty considerable.

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of *Barley* and *Malt* exported and imported and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years		General Accounts			
from	to	No.	Exported	Imported	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	875,035	361	874,673
1706	1726	20	4,814,442	1,879	4,812,563
1726	1746	20	4,461,413	48,073	4,413,339
1746	1765	19	6,045,391	24,901	6,020,490
1697	1765	68	16,196,282	75,216	16,121,066
Years		Annual Averages			
from	to	No.	Exported	Imported	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	97,220	40	97,185
1706	1726	20	240,721	94	240,627
1726	1746	20	223,070	2,403	220,667
1746	1765	19	318,178	1,310	317,868
1697	1765	68	238,180	1,106	237,073

General

General

[illegible]

* Note, Two quarters of Oats make one quarter of Oatmeal.

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of *Rye* exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years		General Accounts		
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports
1697	1706	9	238,985	7
1706	1726	20	789,618	6
1726	1746	20	520,020	6
1746	1765	19	939,580	7
1697	1765	68	2,488,206	2
				3,972
				186,354
				9,556
				199,884
				6
				6
				0
				7
				3
				1
				-
				-
				-
				3
				235,013
				789,618
				333,666
				930,024
				2,888,321
				Exports exceed

Years		Annual Averages		
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports
1697	1706	9	26,554	-
1706	1726	20	39,480	7
1726	1746	20	26,001	-
1746	1765	19	49,451	-
1697	1765	68	35,591	2
				441
				-
				9,317
				503
				2,939
				3
				-
				4
				-
				-
				4
				26,112
				39,480
				16,683
				48,948
				22,651
				Exports exceed

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the *Wheat* exported

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the *Wheat* exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years		General Accounts			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	552,867	2,633	550,234
1706	1726	20	2,518,213	2,313	2,515,900
1726	1746	20	4,461,337	128,087	4,333,250
1746	1765	19	6,800,017	150,407	6,649,609
1697	1765	68	14,332,435	283,441	14,048,994
Years		Annual Averages			
from	to	No.	Exports	Imports	Exports exceed
1697	1706	9	61,422	292	61,137
1706	1726	20	125,910	115	125,795
1726	1746	20	213,066	6,404	216,662
1746	1765	19	357,895	7,916	349,979
1697	1765	68	210,771	4,168	206,602

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the Corn exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years		No.	General Accounts		Exports exceed
from	to		Exports	Imports	
1697	1706	9	1,668,904	9,028	1,659,875
1706	1726	20	8,134,196	69,409	8,064,787
1726	1746	20	9,488,703	832,851	8,655,852
1746	1765	19	13,852,176	680,651	13,171,525
1697	1765	68	33,143,080	1,591,940	31,552,040
Annual Averages					
Years		No.	Annual Averages		Exports exceed
from	to		Exports	Imports	
1697	1706	9	185,433	1,003	184,430
1706	1726	20	406,709	3,470	403,238
1726	1746	20	474,435	41,642	432,792
1746	1765	19	729,061	35,823	693,238
1697	1765	68	487,411	23,410	464,000

From the five last pages may be seen the progress of the Export and Import from time to time, and for the whole time from 1697 to 1765, as to QUANTITY: we shall presently see the value in MONEY, whereby will appear what benefit and savings the nation hath received therefrom.

But, before the accounts are produced, it may be proper to shew upon what principles they are stated, that it may appear that in those, as well as in all the rest of the foregoing papers, nothing is taken for granted, or inanced in favour of the Export, but that the most moderate principles are adopted throughout, with a view, if possible, to obviate every objection.

First then, the Debtor sides of the accounts consist of a charge of the Bounty for all the Corn exported; and the value of all the Corn imported, rated at those high prices at which the low duties are to commence*.

The first article might have been lessened by deducting the Bounties for 1700, and in some other years, when none were paid, and for Oatmeal till 1707.

And the Corn imported might very justly have been left out of the accounts, since it is most probable, had there been no Export, the Import would have been much larger†.

Secondly, the credit sides of the accounts consist of the value of all the Corn exported, rated only at

* See page 96.

† See Note, page 38. and supp. ch. 2. sec. 13. and 14.

the average prices* as noted in pages 132 and 133. And to the profits at the foot of the said account, reduced into annual averages, are added the savings in the price of Wheat eaten at home, which for the first twenty-nine years is valued only at *nine pence*, and the last thirty-nine years at only *one shilling and seven pence* per quarter, although it appears page 123 to have been cheaper by *two shillings and three pence* during the first and *seven shillings and three pence* during the second period than it was from 1595 to 1686.

* It might, with great reason, have been valued somewhat higher; it is seldom shipped so low as the average price; and it may be questioned if the Bounty, one time with another, pays freight, commission, and all other incidental charges.

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn. 153

D^r. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1697 to 1706, being NINE years.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bounty as per page 133	289,670	14	0
Imported as per page 144			
Barley - 361 7 at 32 0 -	579	0	0
Oats, - 2,056 4 - 16 0 -	1,645	4	0
Oatmeal - 4 5 - 32 0 -	7	8	0
Rye - 3,972 6 - 40 0 -	7,945	10	0
Wheat - 2,633 0 - 53 4 -	7,021	6	8
Quarters 9,028 6	£. 306,869	2	8

C^r.

Exported as per page 131

Barley - 251,689 7 at 16 6 -	207,644	2	11
Malt - 623,345 4 - 12 0 -	374,007	6	0
Oatmeal - 2,015 4 - 24 9*-	2,494	3	7
Rye - 238,985 7 - 24 2 -	288,777	0	3
Wheat - 552,867 2 - 36 3 -	1,002,071	17	9
Quarters 1,668,904 0	£. 1,874,994	10	6
Deduct as above D ^r .	306,869	2	8
Gained in nine years	1,568,125	7	10

That is per annum	174,236	3	1
To which add 9d. per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat ate in <i>England</i>	140,625	0	0
Total gained and saved per annum	314,861	3	1

* *Note, Oatmeal is double the price of Oats.*

L

D^r.

D^r. Account of Corn exported and imported from
1706 to 1726, being TWENTY years.

		l.	s.	d.
Bounty as per page 134	—	1,371,032	4	0
Imported as per page 144				
Barley	- 1,879 0 at 32 0 -	3,006	8	0
Oats	- 64,622 6 - 16 0 -	51,698	4	0
Oatmeal	593 7 - 32 0 -	950	4	0
Rye	- - 6 - 40 0 -	1	10	0
Wheat	- 2,313 0 - 53 4 -	6,168	0	0
Quarters	69,409 3	£. 1,432,856	10	0

Per Contra C^r.

Exported as per page 131

Barley	- 433,237 2 at 18 8 -	404,354	15	4
Malt	- 4,381,205 0 - 12 0 -	2,628,723	0	0
Oatmeal	11,922 1 - 28 0 -	16,690	19	6
Rye	- 789,618 6 - 23 7 -	931,092	2	2
Wheat	2,518,213 4 - 35 4 -	4,448,843	17	0
Quarters	8,134,196 5	£. 8,429,704	14	0
Deduct as above D ^r .		1,432,856	10	0

Gained in twenty years 6,996,848 4 0

That is per annum 349,842 8 2

To which add 9d. per qr. faved on
3,750,000 Wheat ate in *England* 140,625 0 0

Total gained and faved per annum 490,467 8 2

D^r.

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn. 153

D^r. Account of Corn exported and imported from
1726 to 1746, being TWENTY years.

	l.	s.	d.
Bounty paid as per page 134	1,769,756	4	2
Imported as per page 144			
Barley, - 48,073 6 at 32 0 -	76,918	0	0
Oats - 470,314 2 - 16 0 -	376,251	8	0
Oatmeal - 21 6 - 32 0 -	34	16	0
Rye - 186,354 0 - 40 0 -	372,708	0	0
Wheat - 128,087 3 - 53 4 -	341,566	6	8
Quarters 832,851 1	£. 2,937,234	14	10

Per Contra C^r.

Exported as per page 131			
Barley - 590,080 6 at 17 9 -	523,696	13	3
Malt 3,871,332 4 - 12 0 -	2,322,793	10	0
Oatmeal 45,932 3 - 26 7 -	61,051	15	4
Rye - 520,020 6 - 19 11 -	517,853	19	11
Wheat 4,461,337 4 - 29 10 -	6,654,828	8	9
Quarters 9,488,703 7	£. 10,080,224	7	3
Deduct as above D ^r .	2,937,234	14	10

Gained in twenty years 7,142,989 12 5

That is per annum 357,149 9 7

To which add 1s. 7d. per qr. saved on
3,750,000 Wheat ate in *England* 296,875 0 0

Total gained and saved per annum 654,024 9 7

L 2

D^r.

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Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from
1746 to 1765, being NINETEEN years.

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bounty paid as per page 135	-	2,628,503	4	7
Imported as per page 144				
Barley	- 24,901 3 at 32 0 -	39,842	4	0
Oats	- 474,762 1 - 16 0 -	379,809	14	0
Oatmeal	21,023 0 - 32 0 -	33,636	16	0
Rye	- 9,556 7 - 40 0 -	19,113	15	0
Wheat	150,407 5 - 53 4 -	401,087	0	0
Quarters 680,651 0		<u>£. 3,501,992</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>

Per Contra Cr.

Exported as per page 131

Barley	1,268,088 1 at 18 3 -	1,157,130	8	3
Malt	4,777,303 6 - 12 0 -	2,866,382	5	0
Oatmeal	67,186 4 - 27 4 -	91,821	11	0
Rye	- 939,580 7 - 21 1 -	990,474	16	11
Wheat	6,800,017 1 - 31 8 -	10,766,693	15	7
Qu ^{rs} . 13,852,176 3		<u>£. 15,872,502</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>
Deduct as above Dr.		<u>3,501,992</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>

Remains gained in nineteen years 12,370,510 3 2

That is per annum 651,079 9 7

To which add 1s. 7d. * per qr. saved on
3,750,000 Wheat ate in *England* 296,875 0 0

Total gained and saved per annum 947,954 9 7

* Instead of 1s. 7d. which was taken for one-third of 4s. 10d.
—2s. 5d. *i. e.*—one-third of 7s. 3d. should have been taken in
this, and the last page: See p. 123.

Totals of the Gains and Savings per annum, brought forward from page 153, 154,
155, 156.

No. Years from	to	Gains		Savings		Totals	
		l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.
9 — 1697 —	1706 —	174,236	3 1	140,625	0 0	314,861	3 1
20 — 1706 —	1726 —	349,842	8 2	140,625	0 0	490,467	8 2
20 — 1726 —	1746 —	375,149	9 7	296,875	0 0	654,024	9 7
19 — 1746 —	1765 —	651,079	9 7	296,875	0 0	947,954	9 7
29 — 1697 —	1706 —	295,343	18 4	140,625	0 0	435,968	18 4
39 — 1726 —	1765 —	500,346	2 11	296,875	0 0	797,221	2 11
68 — 1697 —	1765 —	412,918	14 6	230,239	0 0	643,157	14 6

By

By the last page it appears, at one view, what the totals of the gains and savings made by the Exportation of Corn for *sixty-eight* years have been, and how the same have increased during that period, the value of all the Corn imported, and amount of all the Bounties being deducted.

And these accounts are founded on facts; which, it should seem, cannot be in the least controverted, the most material doubt that can be raised against them would be to assert, that, however fully and clearly they may be stated, however certain the facts on which they are founded are, yet there can be no dependence thereon, unless we could know that an equal quantity of Corn hath been consumed since to what was consumed before the Bounty took place; and that the number of Men and other animals, who are fed with and live on Grain, in the year 1764, is equal to that of those which was supported in 1689 thereby.

For although it doth appear, that Bread-Corn and all other Grain are, and have been, as cheap, or cheaper, since the Bounty on the Export hath been given than before; yet it may have happened by the number of the people being lessened, or by some other means, that the *consumption* of Grain in this Kingdom hath been so decreased, as that such cheapness should not at all, or at least not wholly, be attributed to the *imaginary* increased quantity of Corn grown by the extension of Tillage, arising from, or
rather

rather occasioned by, the encouragement given by such Bounty.

This must undoubtedly be admitted; but then it must at the same time be also granted, on the contrary, that it may have happened by the number of the people being increased, or by some other means, that the *consumption* of Grain in the Kingdom hath been also increased during the said period, and then such cheapness ought wholly to be attributed to the *really* increased quantity of Corn produced by the extension of Tillage arising from, or rather occasioned by, such Bounty.

The general opinion seems to be for the last of these propositions, and that the number of Men and other animals fed on Grain is greatly increased. But this, as to Men at least, doth not appear to be the case; and yet there are reasons to think they are at least equal to, or somewhat exceed, what they then were, and from the best authority could be obtained, that the number in *England* and *Wales* was then, and is now, about SIX MILLIONS *.

The difficulties that attended this Enquiry were not inconsiderable, and in making it an opportunity was taken, in order to get at the amounts of the annual *growth* of all sorts of Grain, to inquire what quantity of Bread they consume per head annually, and how much of each sort of Grain is made into Bread, and applied to other uses, and this is the result of our enquiries.

* See Supp. ch. 3.

That the numbers of the said six millions, who ate the several sorts of Corn in Bread, and the average quantities which they annually consume per head, are as follows:

Numbers * of the people		qr. b.	
3,750,000	} Consume annually each	Wheat	1 0
739,000		Barley	1 3
888,000		Rye	1 1
723,000		Oats	2 7

Besides that which is made into Bread, there is reason to suppose the following quantities of the above and other sorts of Grain are annually expended in other uses.

qrs.	
90,900	Wheat distilled and made Starch, &c.
3,300,000	Barley in beer
117,000	ditto, other uses.
2,461,500 †	Oats, horses, soup, &c.
31,000	Rye, Tanners and hogs.
90,000	Beans and Pease, for Negroes, horses, and hogs.
134,000	Pease, for Sailors and Soup.
90,000	Rape and other feed, for oil.

And this exclusive of the several sorts of garden feeds, and pulse ate green, of which we could form no idea.

* See Supp. ch. 4 and 5.

† Note, From the year 1752 to 1765, the annual consumption of Oats in *London* only is increased above 52,000 qrs.

From

From these last accounts, together with those in the foregoing part of this Collection, we may proceed to state the particular and general accounts of Corn consumed, exported, imported, and grown annually, and the proportions they severally bear to each other; wherein although it may be possible, some things will be mistaken, yet we presume that the whole will be rather under than above the truth.

PARTICULAR ACCOUNTS OF CORN CONSUMED, &c.

First, of BARLEY.

			qrs.
Bread	—	—	1,016,125
Malt	—	—	3,300,000
Hogs and other purposes	—	—	117,000
Consumed at home	—	—	4,333,125
Exported page 132			
	viz. Raw	37,398	171,253
	Malted	133,855*	
Consumed and exported	—	—	4,604,378
Imported page 145, deduct	—	—	1,106
Annual growth	—	—	4,603,272

* Note, One third of the Malt exported is deducted to reduce it into Barley.

Of

Of which the annual Export is little more than *one twenty-seventh* part, and that in the year 1750, which was 445,004, after reducing the Malt into Barley, being the highest ever known*, was not quite *one tenth*.

Second OATS,

		qrs.
Bread	— — —	1,791,225
Horses and other purposes	—	2,461,500
Consumed at home	—	4,252,725
Exported page 132	— —	†3,737
Consumed and exported	—	4,256,462
Imported page 145, deduct		
<i>viz.</i> Meal	636 4 }	15,515
Corn	14,878 4 }	
Annual growth	—	4,240,947

To which both the annual Export and Import bear a very insignificant proportion, but the highest Importation which was in 1763, as per page 143, with the meal, amounted to 219,310, *i. e. one nineteenth* part of the growth.

* See page 129.

† Note, *One* quarter of Oatmeal is equal to *two* quarters of Oats.

Third,

Price, Export, and Import, of Corn. 163

Third, RYE.

	qrs.		
Bread	—	—	999,000
Other purposes	—	—	31,000
Consumed at home	—		1,030,000
Exported page 132	—	—	36,591
Consumed and exported	—		1,066,591
Imported page 145, deduct	—		2,939
Annual growth	—		1,063,652

Of which the annual Export is about *one twenty-ninth* part, and that in 1706 being the highest Export, viz. 166,512 qrs. * if there is no mistake in the accounts, is more than *one seventh*, however the next highest, which was in 1749, viz. 106,312 †, is *one tenth*.

Fourth, WHEAT.

	qrs.		
Bread	—	—	3,750,000
Other purposes	—	—	90,000
Consumed at home	—		3,840,000
Exported page 132	—	—	210,771
Consumed and exported			4,050,771
Imported page 145, deduct	—		4,168
Annual growth	—	—	4,046,603

* Page 126,

† Page 129.

Of

Of which the annual Export is rather less than *one nineteenth* part; but the highest Export, viz. in 1750, being 947,602 * was more than *one fifth*.

As to the remaining articles of Beans, Pease, Rape-seed, &c. as mentioned page 160, we shall not take any farther account of them, nor include them in the general account of the *growth*, as the quantities there mentioned are founded more on conjecture than any of the others there noted.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS OF CORN CONSUMED, &c.

	Growth	Consumed	Export	Import
Barley	4,603,272	- 4,433,125	- 171,253	- 1,106
Oats	4,240,947	- 4,252,725	- 3,737	- 15,515
Rye	1,063,652	- 1,030,000	- 36,591	- 2,939
Wheat	4,046,603	- 3,840,000	- 210,771	- 4,168
	13,954,474			
Seed*	1,395,447			
	15,349,921	13,555,850	422,352†	23,728†

* Page 129.

† The seed is called *one tenth*.

‡ The total of the Export being here only 422,352, and the Import amounting to 23,728, whereas the first, page 131, is 487,411, and the last, page 144, is only 23,410, arises from the Malt being reduced into Barley, and the Oatmeal into Oats, which it was not proper to do in the general accounts, the Custom-house not having done it.

The

The PROPORTIONS, which all the Corn annually grown, consumed, exported, and imported, bear to each other, are as under.

The EXPORT is bare one *one thirty-second* part of the CONSUMPTION, *one thirty-third* part of the GROWTH, exclusive of the seed, *one thirty-sixth* part of the GROWTH, including the seed, and not near *one third* of the SEED itself, supposing it only *one tenth* of the GROWTH: nor did even the highest year ever known, the year 1750, when the amount of the Export was 1,500,220 qrs.* surpass the SEED *one twelfth part*; and yet what prodigious benefit hath the Nation reaped from the Exportation!

The IMPORT hath been about a *five hundred and seventy first* part of the CONSUMPTION and *one eighteenth* of the Export, and never equalled but a very small part of the GROWTH.

The GROWTH, exclusive of the seed, which to save deducting we here omit, exceeds the consumption *only about one thirty-fourth*, which confirms what is advanced page 25, and shews how much they are mistaken who talk of one year's growth serving two, three, or four; which is the error of many sensible men and judicious writers, and this confirms what is advanced in the Essay, page 28, and proves that a *small* deficiency of Crop *far* exceeds the Export.

			qrs.
* Barley	—	—	224,500
Malt 330,754, deduct one third	—	—	220,503
Oatmeal 4,283 doubled	—	—	8,566
Rye	—	—	99,049
Wheat	—	—	917,602

As may be seen, p. 129.

And

And it must be allowed, that what is here supposed the annual surplus is not under-rated, if it be granted that the stock in hand at *Michaelmas* 1764 was *equal* to that in 1697; and that it could not be *more* seems clear; for, it was found to be so small that the Parliament thought necessary, by act 5 G. III. c. 31, to allow no Bounty on Export, or Duty on Import, of Wheat till 24 *August*; 1765, and also made farther provision to stop the Export, if found necessary, neither of which steps were taken in 1697, though Wheat was then 3l. a quarter at *Windsor*, whereas in 1764 it was only 2l. 6s. 9d. as may be seen in the foregoing Register.

And if we could suppose all the 1,500,220*, which was exported in the year 1750, to have been the surplus of the year 1749, the *growth* of that year did not exceed the annual *consumption* ONE NINTH.

The whole view in collecting and publishing these papers, and of the observations made on them, is only to endeavour to set the state of the Corn-trade, and the effects of our Corn-laws, in a true light, wherein, if we have failed, we may at least hope they will tend to engage some other more able hand in the attempt, and be of some assistance to him in accomplishing the same.

* See Page 165.

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SUPPLEMENT

SUPPLEMENT

CONTAINING

THE DIVISION OF THE SUPPLEMENT INTO
SEVERAL PAPERS AND CALCULATIONS,

WHICH TEND TO EXPLAIN AND CONFIRM
WHAT IS ADVANCED IN THE FORE-
GOING TRACTS.

A

NOTE

THE division of this Supplement into Chapters and Sections was done in order to refer to it from the foregoing Tracts.

WHICH TRACT TO EXPLAIN AND CONFIRM
WHAT IS ADVANCED IN THE FORE-
GOING TRACTS.

SUPPLEMENT.

CHAPTER I.

OF MAGAZINES.

SECTION I.

*Translation of a Letter from the Avoyer, or chief Magistrate, at Berne, in Switzerland, to ———, relative to the Magazines for Corn and Wine there **

S I R,

YOU ask me for an account of the provisions, both for Corn and Wine, which are subsisting in the Canton of Berne, and if it be true that we owe the establishment of them to the patriotic zeal of a citizen of this Republic, who, dying without children, left his riches for that purpose: in regard to which, I have the honour to acquaint you, *that you have been misinformed as to the nature of the foundation*

* A translation of this letter hath before been published in the *Museum Rusticum*, vol. II. numb. 41.

of our *Magazines* *; and give me leave to add, by the way, that it is not in this little Republic, as in great States. At *Berne* private men have very slender fortunes: on the contrary, the *State*, by a course of disinterestedness and prudent œconomy in those who govern, may pass for rich, since the rights of the royalties only, with the rents of the estates or lordships, of which they are possessed, both by purchase and conquest, put it in their power, and even without raising any sort of tax or excise on the people, to lay up almost every year some saving in the treasury: thence it arises that the government is always both willing and able to relieve the wants of its citizens and subjects, and therefore such foundations would, in this country, be works of supererogation.

The Magistrates of *Berne* even flatter themselves, that it is more honourable for them to administer the revenues of the Republic in such a manner, that none but itself should be in a capacity to relieve the people, than it would be, if by augmenting the salaries of their officers, which they are well able to do, they should become, after the example of many great States, rich citizens in a poor Republic. But it is time to finish this long digression, and to apply myself to satisfy, Sir, your curiosity, I will begin by laying before you the nature of the *Magazines* of Corn.

* The original of the words in Italic is, “que l’histoire prétendue de cet honnête Citoyen et de sa fondation est une fable faite à plaisir, dont il n’y a pas un mot de vray.”

The People of *Berne* have two forts, one
 § 3. subject to great variations, the other always
 the same. There are of the first fort many
 in the capital, and in many other parts of the Canton,
 which are filled, more or less, according as the abun-
 dance of the harvest, and goodness of the grain, fur-
 nish an opportunity; for, besides the fixed re-
 venue which the state hath in fee-farm rents, it
 hath a great quantity of tithes, which are of a
 very casual and very different produce: when
 there are several fruitful years in *succession*, the
 granaries of this fort in the capital become full; but
 in other parts, if there is an appearance, towards
 Easter, of a good harvest, the corn is sold which
 is in the castles of the different bailiwicks, after ha-
 ving paid the several salaries to which they are made
 liable: and the Bailiffs, who have a certain revenue
 made good to them, account for the surplus to
 the chamber of œconomy at *Berne*. The Maga-
 zines of the capital, on the contrary, are never
 opened and sold but in dear times; and then care is
 taken not to sell to any family more than is suffi-
 cient for its supply, and always below the Market-
 price.

As to the Magazines of the second fort,
 § 4. they are called the PROVISION, and were
 established in pursuance of a convention,
 called the DEFENSIONAL, which the whole Hel-
 vetic body had entered into for the common defence
 of Switzerland, in case of an attack from a foreign
 M 3 enemy.

enemy. This treaty, regulating the number of troops and artillery which each Canton is bound to furnish, obliges them at the same time to have always ready, and in store, provision and ammunition in proportion to their contingent. There are of these Magazines of Provision, as well at *Berne*, as in all the castles where the Bailiffs reside: they are never either diminished or increased, only care is taken to keep them always in good order, and to substitute good Corn in the place of that which decays. A Bailiff, who should misapply this provision, would be deposed; and from time to time the deputies of *Berne*, without giving notice of their intention, visit these Magazines, and cause the Corn to be measured over. Although there is six times more Corn in these Magazines than the contingent, which *Berne* furnishes by the DEFENSIONAL, requires, they have never taken, in times of peace, more than one fourth part in an exceeding scarcity; and they have had great care to refill them without delay.

This is, sir, in abridgement, an account
§ 5. of the magazines for the provision of Corn in the Canton of *Berne*. Several short Crops within fifteen years having caused the common people to suffer by the high price which they were obliged to give for their Bread, and the Corn which the government caused to be purchased in *Burgundy* and *Suabia*, and resold to a great loss, having given but little relief to the misery of the poor, there is at present

present a project under consideration at *Berne*, which, if it is brought to pass, will, in all probability, prevent the subjects of this *state* from paying very dear for their Bread for the time to come; which is this: It is proposed to build, in those parts of the Canton which are most fruitful in Corn, large *Granaries*, and at such times when the abundance of the harvest shall have caused the value of a certain measure of Corn to fall below a certain price, to buy up, on account of the government, all that shall be left for sale in the Markets, after private persons have done buying, to the end that the Owner, or Farmer, may be always sure of having a certain price for his Corn, and not be under a necessity of being at the expence and trouble of laying up what he may have left in the Town-hall, or carrying it home again, or else selling it at too low a price to *Foreigners* in the neighbourhood, of whom the subjects of *Berne* are often afterwards obliged to buy it again at an exorbitant rate. The government, on the contrary, will sell their Corn again to their subjects, as soon as ever the price shall have risen to a certain degree; and by this management they will prevent both the too high and too low price of this commodity, both of which are inconveniences, in their consequences hurtful enough to deserve the care of a *Sovereign* to prevent, who hath nothing more at heart than to procure, as much as can depend on his care and foresight, the happiness of the people which *Providence* hath submitted to his government.

As to Wine. The State of *Berne*, having
§ 6. a great quantity of Wine, as tithes and
quit-rents, in the several vineyards in the
Canton, had formerly a great deal in store, both at
Berne and elsewhere, of which they made use, in
short years, both to pay the salaries in Wine, which
are annexed to a number of employments, and to
supply the poor citizens therewith at a moderate
price, observing the same precaution as when they
sell Corn at a low price; but the salaries in Wine
have by little and little encreased to such a degree,
that at this day there is so little left to be laid up,
that, after two succeeding short years, the State finds
itself under a necessity of paying a great part of the
salaries in Money, which were appointed to be paid
in Wine, in order to keep it in their power to supply
the tradesmen and other poor citizens of *Berne* there-
with at a low rate.

I hope, Sir, that I have been so successful as to
satisfy your curiosity, and have the honour to be,

S I R,

Your humble servant.

The foregoing curious letter was re-
ceived some years since by a gentleman of
§ 7. rank, whose superior abilities are con-
tinually employed in searching out and communica-
ting to the Public, such things as may be useful to
mankind; particularly such as tend to the improve-
ment and increase of Agriculture, and to make Corn
cheap;

cheap; and to him we are indebted for many of the most material facts and papers contained in this Collection.

Notwithstanding the great care of the § 8. Magistrates of *Berne*, it appears by this letter, that the people in that *Canton* suffer oftener by the dearness of Bread than in *England*, which proves that our *Corn-laws* are better than those established there, and that *Magazines* do not answer the end of keeping *Corn* at a moderate price so well as an *Exportation* under proper regulations, which most men think they will, and seem justified in so thinking, since they have been generally erected by most politicians.

In relation to this subject, we have the § 9. following sensible conversation in a paper called the *Humanist*, numb. 3. dated April 9, 1757. Signior *Guastaldi*, when minister here from the Republic of *Genoa*, being asked, "Whether in his country *public* granaries had not been found of service? replied, At *Genoa* there was no doing without them, and that the *state* had always *seven years* PROVISION before hand*;

* Only one year's PROVISION in *England* would cost very near as much as the amount of the land-tax at 4s. all expences and waste included, to keep it in good order. But our *Corn* is of a softer nature and more apt to decay than that of *Genoa*, and it may be supposed the *City* only, and not the *State*, is here meant.

" but,

“but, said he, in your *Isle* it is quite different; for,
 “you annually grow more than you eat; and, if I am
 “not misinformed, it is hardly one year in twenty
 “that the produce of the earth is not fully sufficient
 “for the inhabitants of it. Therefore, your business
 “rather should be, to get a market for your *superflu-*
 “*ity* abroad. Yet, I have been told, so negligent
 “is the *police* here, that at certain times the *public*
 “have given a Bounty to transport the Corn from
 “the mouths of your own people, who at those very
 “times stood in great need of it.”

Thus far Signior *Guastaldi*. The Author

§ 10. goes on, “I am sorry to say the remark
 “of this learned foreigner had too much
 “foundation in truth; yet, I think, the injury he
 “complains of may be easily redressed, by disallow-
 “ing the Bounty when the Corn exceeds the *mean*
 “rate, and, when beyond such a certain rate, by a
 “total prohibition of Exportation*.” And then
 says, “Satisfied I am, that the common method of
 “stacking Corn in the midlands of *England*, which
 “preserves it good many years, will *fully* answer the
 “end of *public* granaries.”

Translation of abstracts from *Ami des*
 § 11. *hommes*, vol. III. printed at *Amsterdam*,
 1758. The supposed Author Monsieur
Mirabeau.

* See Considerations, sec. 4.

After shewing, p. 69, the inconveniences which the regulations and restrictions relative to the Corn-trade have had in *France*, he proposes the leaving it entirely free * for the future ; which, p. 70, he says, Mr. *Colbert* did, except as to great Cities, particularly those near the sea, which he took care should be provided with foreign Corn. But that care appears to him superfluous and dangerous. *Superfluous*, for that the industry of the Merchant will always prevent the necessity of such provisions ; and by that means the charges and loss of the *Magazines* will fall on strangers or private persons, who will be very ready to support them, and not on the public, whose affairs are never better managed than when they have nothing to do †. *Dangerous*, in that it is beginning an inspection into matters where every inspection opens a door to greater inconveniences, page 73. It hath been proposed, in some provinces, to erect *Magazines* of the King's Corn, either for the service of the troops, or for the convenience and necessity of the country. But what would be the consequences ? When it was necessary to fill those gra-

* The bad effects of the contrary conduct are seen, or rather felt, in the *Roman* ecclesiastical state, where there is now, or very lately was, a famine ; and the Husbandman is so far from being free, that an agent of the Pope's granaries fixes the prices of his Corn at so much a bushel, which price he cannot dispute, nor has he liberty to sell to any other than the said agent, and therefore only raises for the support of his own family. See *Essays on Husbandry*, Lond. 1764, p. 117.

† “ Du public, dont les affaires ne sont jamais mieux administrées que quand il n'en a point.”

naries,

naries, the name of authority would stop the Corn every where, and those employed would have it at what price they pleased.

When it should become necessary to empty the Magazines, lest the Corn should perish, the same sacred name would stop all other sales, and serve as a veil to a certain and unlawful gain.

"I have seen such men starve a country, and, what is more, wrest from it both honour and wealth."

He goes on to p. 86, in removing all objections which occur to him against making the Corn-trade free; and there, as the sum total of what he hath said, proposes an EDICT something like that which was passed at *Paris* in 1764, of which a copy is given in the following chapter.

In regard to Magazines, the ingenious § 12. Author of the *Essays on Husbandry* *, says, page 116, "I think public granaries quite *detrimental*, rather than *useful*, in a free state like ours. *National and provincial Magazines of Corn* will naturally produce *Monopoly*; and an undue fear of famine, joined with much anxiety about hoarding up Grain, which will put a stop to Exportation, is one of the surest methods I know of bringing on a dearth." He goes on, and confirms what he says with very strong and conclusive reasons.

* Printed at *London*, 1764, and sold by *Brotherton*, &c.

CHAPTER II.

ACCOUNTS FROM FRENCH AUTHORS.

SECTION I.

AN account of what some late *French* Authors say of our Corn-laws, and some of late *Epicks* published there in regard to the Corn-trade.

The Author of *L'Ami des Hommes*, vol. III. p. 53, says, "The *English*, to encourage the culture of "Corn in their Island, have made use of a singular "method, which hath succeeded, which is to gratify, "at the expence of the *State*, the Exporters of that "Merchandise.

"They have methodised and regulated that important object of the police, in proportion to the "Market-prices with them of that valuable Merchandise.

"This method may have been good for a time, "and may become hurtful in other circumstances; "for there is no political regulation that in all minute cases can remain fixed here below."

Abstracts from a work, called *Les Intérêts de la France mal entendus dans les Branches de l'Agriculture*, &c. 2 vol. 12mo. at *Amsterdam*, 1757, supposed to be written by Mr. *Boulainvilliers*.

Vol.

Vol. I. page 93 to 111, an account is given at length of the method of Tillage pursued in the County of *Norfolk*, and the benefits which have accrued therefrom, which it is said the *Bounty*, established in 1689, gave rise to, and that the produce of the land hath in general been augmented thereby; the Author goes on:

“ In other *States*, private persons pay the government for the Exportation of Grain; *England* acts quite otherwise, and pays them.

“ All common means made use of to that time to increase the fruits of the earth had been insufficient, or, at least, of little use.

“ Before that Epoch, the Agriculture of *England* was of little account in *Europe*.

“ As long as that *Monarchy* thought only
 §.3. “ of its *own* subsistence, it always found it self short of the *necessary*; it was very often obliged to have recourse to foreigners to make up the deficiency of the growth of the Nation: but, when it made its Agriculture an object of *Commerce*, the cultivation of its land became one of the most abundant in *Europe*.

“ Without that stroke of state, the best concerted of all those which have yet appeared in modern politics, *England* had never sown but for herself; for what would she have done with the *surplus* of her Grain?

“ It

"It was the Bounty *only* which could assure her
"of the sale in foreign Markets; and, for that rea-
"son, be the *only* source of the augmentation of her
"harvests.

He then proceeds to answer objections;
§ 4. shews the benefits which have arisen from
the Bounty; and says,

"Let us combine all the means which that Mo-
"narchy hath put in use, for an age past, to esta-
"blish its power; and we shall find, that it is to
"this in particular which she is indebted for her
"elevation." He then proceeds to page 131, to
shew the necessity of giving a Bounty on the Export
of Corn in *France*, after our Example.

Vol. II. fol. 123, speaking of the Act of
§ 5. Navigation, he says, "It fixed for ever in
favour of this Nation the balance of power
at sea." The Author of *L'Ami des Hommes* quoted
above, speaking of the same Act, confesseth the
great consequence it hath been of to us by the un-
easiness it gives him. In vol. III. page 259, he saith,
"It would be easy to prove to them, the *English*,
"that their famous Act of Navigation was a folly,
"even at the time in which it was proposed; al-
"though the incidents, which at that time turned
"the views of foreign powers another way, have
"caused it to succeed;" which he explains, and
adds, "If those powers, which were equally affected
" by

“by that injury done to all Mankind, had taken
 “combined measures against that attempt on public
 “liberty; the *English* would have shamefully re-
 “treated; instead of which each power looked on it
 “as not regarding himself, and content to obtain
 “the permission to carry to the *Queen of Nations*
 “the Merchandise of its own growth, saw no
 “harm in that Act; except the *Dutch*, who are
 “great carriers, but grow little or nothing.” He
 goes on to give it some more abuse, and says,
 “Now, when every Nation turns its view to com-
 “merce, it could not be passed.”

It must be confessed the last quotations

§ 6. are not directly to the present purpose;
 but, if that Act hath been of such benefit
 in general, no Trade in particular hath contributed
 more to promote the ends thereof than that of Corn,
 by the great number of men necessarily engaged in
 the navigation of ships and vessels employed for the
 carriage thereof, both coastways and to foreign parts,
 which will, it is hoped, be a sufficient excuse for
 our so doing, and help to shew, how careful we
 ought to be in dispensing with, or altering, not only
 that Act, but also our Laws relative to the Export of
 Corn.

Since the publishing the works, from
 § 7. which the above quotations and abstracts are
 taken, all possible encouragement hath
 been

been given to Agriculture in *France*; many other valuable pieces have been published, relative more immediately to that and to the Corn-trade; and several Declarations and Edicts have been published for the regulation of the said Trade, both within the Kingdom and in respect to Exportation and Importation to and from foreign parts, all which are drawn up in a manner so conformable to the sentiments of the above Authors as to give reason to believe they were advised with, or, at least, the plans they have sketched out were followed, as far as the nature of the thing would bear.

It would be tiresome, and is unnecessary,
 § 8. to give translations of all those papers; we shall, however, give the titles of such as could be obtained, and attempt a translation of the Edict, concerning the Export and Import, which more immediately concerns us.

Titles of Edicts published in *France* relative to the Corn-trade.

First, “A declaration of the King, giving permission to circulate Corn, Flour, and Pulse, through the whole extent of the Kingdom, free from all duties, even those of Toll.

“ Given at *Versailles*, the 25 May, 1763.”

Second, “ Order of the King’s Council of State, explaining an order of 27 March, 1763, and setting a Duty on all Flour imported.

“ Dated 18 September, 1763.”

N

Third,

Third, "Order of the King's Council of State,
 "which directs that the liberty given to export
 "Flour in Casks shall extend to every sort of Flour.
 "Dated 21 November, 1763."

The next is that which relates to the Exportation,
 and is as follows :

Translation of the *French* King's EDICT relative to
 the Exportation of Corn, &c.

EDICT of the KING.

*Concerning the LIBERTY of the EXPORTATION from,
 and IMPORTATION of Grain into, the Kingdom.*

Given at Compeigne, in the Month of July, 1764.

REGISTERED IN PARLIAMENT.

LOUIS, by the grace of God, King of *France*
 and *Navarre*, to all present and to come, Greeting :

The attention which we owe to every thing that
 may contribute to the welfare of our Subjects hath
 induced us to give a favourable hearing to the peti-
 tions which have been addressed to us from all parts,
 to establish an entire Liberty in the Corn-trade, and
 to revoke such Laws and Regulations as have been
 heretofore made to restrain it within too strict bounds.
 After having taken the opinion of persons the best
 acquainted in the affair, and having carefully deli-
 berated in our Council, We thought it necessary to
 comply with the solicitations which have been made

to us for the free Exportation and Importation of Corn and Meal, as proper to encourage and increase the cultivation of Land, the produce of which is the source of the most real and certain riches of a state, to maintain plenty by Magazines and the Importation of foreign Corn, to prevent Corn from being at a price which discourages the Grower, to banish Monopoly by an irrevocable exclusion of all particular permissions, and, in the end, by a free and entire concurrence or *competition* in the Trade, to keep up between different Nations that communication of exchanging superfluities for necessities, so conformable to the order established by Divine Providence, and to the views of humanity, which ought to animate all Sovereigns. We are convinced, that it is worthy of our continual care, for the happiness of our people, and of our justice towards the proprietors of Lands and the Farmers, to grant them a liberty which they so earnestly desire: and we have, moreover, thought it necessary to secure, by a solemn and perpetual Law, the Merchants and Traders from all fear of the return of prohibitive Laws; but, to remove the fears of those who are not as yet fully convinced of the advantage which the liberty of such a commerce must produce, it seemed to us necessary to fix a price of Corn, above which all Exportation out of the Kingdom should be prohibited when Wheat shall have risen to that price. And as we ought not to neglect any occasion to excite industry, we have resolved to encourage at the same time the

French navigation, by securing to *French* vessels and seamen, exclusively of all others, the carriage of Corn to be exported. FOR THESE CAUSES, and and others moving us hereto, with the advice of our Council, and of our certain knowledge, full power, and royal authority, we have, by this present, perpetual, and irrevocable Edict, ordered, decreed, and ordained, ordering, decreeing, and ordaining, willing, and it is our pleasure, as follows:

I.

Our Declaration of the 25 *May*, 1763, concerning the free transportation of Corn within our Kingdom with permission to establish Magazines, together with the Letters patents, explaining the same of the 5 *March* last, shall be executed according to their form and tenor; consequently, it is our pleasure, that the said interior circulation *shall not be in any wise obstructed*.

II.

Also, we permit all our subjects of whatever quality and condition they may be, even the Nobility and privileged persons, to trade in every species of Corn, Seeds, Grain, Pulse, and Meal, whether it be with natives or foreigners, and to form, for that end, such Magazines as they shall think proper, without being liable to be searched, disturbed, or bound by any formalities other than those mentioned by this present Edict, nor shall the said Nobility and privileged persons be subject to any impositions by reason of such Trade *only*.

III.

III.

It is our pleasure, to that end, that the Exportation, to foreigners, of all Corn, Seeds, Grain, Pulse, and Meal, shall be entirely free, both by land and by sea, with the exceptions and limitations only laid down by the following articles. We strictly prohibit and forbid all our officers and those of *Lords* to oppose or hinder such Importation in any wise, in any case, or under any pretence, whatsoever.

IV.

The Export of Wheat, Rye, Maslin, and Meal, shall not be permitted, when by sea, as to the present, until it shall be, by us, otherwise ordered, except from the ports of *Calais, St. Valory, Dunkirk, Fécamp, Dieppe, le Havre, Rouen, Honfleur, Cherbourg, Caen, Granville, Morlaise, St. Malo, Brest, Port Louis, Nantes, Vannes, la Rochelle, Bordeaux, Blaye, Libourne, Bayonne, Cette, Vendres, Marseilles, and Toulon*; and the Exportation may not be carried on but on *French* vessels, of which the Captain and *two thirds* of the mariners at least shall be *French*, under pain of confiscation.

V.

Being desirous to provide, by the introduction of foreign Corn into our Kingdom, so that Corn may not rise to a price burthensome to our people, we permit all our subjects and all foreigners to bring freely into our Kingdom, on all kinds of Vessels without distinction, all Corn, Seeds, Grain, Meal,

and Pulse, coming from abroad, paying the duties imposed by this present Edict.

VI.

In case, nevertheless, when, contrary to our expectation, and notwithstanding the reasonable hopes which the free Importation of such foreign Grain gives; the price of Wheat shall be risen to twelve livres ten sous the quintal * and upwards, in any one of the ports or places situated on the frontier of our Kingdom, and that the said price shall be kept up in the same place, for three following market-days: It is our pleasure that the liberty granted by the foregoing Articles shall remain suspended in such place, absolutely and without there being need of any new regulation. We therefore prohibit, and most expressly forbid, in the said case, all our subjects to export †, or cause any Grain to be exported, from the said place, until that, upon the representations of the officers of the said place, which are to be addressed to the Controller General of our Finances, the opening of the said place hath been ordered in our Council, to the end, to re-establish there a general and indefinite liberty for the Import and Export of Grain, without which no particular permissions in this respect shall or may be given in any case by our Governors, Commandants, Commissaries in their departments, or other our officers,

* About 48s. the quarter, London measure.

† Export, or is not in the original.

VII.

Wheat shall be subject, on the Importation into the Kingdom, to a duty of one per cent. and Rye, other Corn, Seeds, Grain, Flour, and Pulse, to a duty of three per cent. It is our pleasure, nevertheless, that the said Grains shall not pay, on the Exportation from our Kingdom, only a duty of one half per cent. for which purpose, those who would import or export these commodities shall be obliged, under such penalties as shall be fixed, to make at the Custom-houses, established on the frontiers of our Kingdom, for the receipts of our dues, declarations, conformable to the regulations of the quantity and quality of the said commodities.

VIII.

We permit all foreigners or natives to import all kinds of Grain into our Kingdom, and there to lay them up, that is to say, Wheat for a year, and other Corns, Seeds, Grain, Meal or Flour, and Pulse, for six months only; during which times, they may export them freely to foreigners, either whole or in Meal, on all sorts of vessels without distinction, without paying any duty; and they shall not be liable to pay the duties imposed by the preceding article, only in the case where the said commodities are brought in for the consumption of the inhabitants of our Kingdom, or after the expiration of the time allowed for laying them up.

IX.

We repeal all Edicts, Declarations, and Regulations, contrary hereto, nevertheless, without making any innovation, as to the present, in the rules of the police hitherto observed, for victualling our good City of *Paris*, which shall continue to be observed, as heretofore, until it hath by us been otherwise ordered. Moreover, we command our well-beloved and trusty *Counsellors**, holding our Court of the Parliament of *Paris*, that they cause our present Edict to be read, published, and registered, and the contents hereof to keep, observe, and execute, according to its form and tenor, every thing to the contrary notwithstanding. We will that copies of this present Edict, collated by one of our well-beloved and faithful Counsellors secretaries, credit be given as to the original; FOR, SUCH IS OUR PLEASURE: And, to the end that this be a matter firm and stable for ever, we have caused our seal to be fixed hereto. Given at *Compeigne*, in the month of *July*, in the year of grace 1764, and of our reign the forty-ninth,

Signed LOUIS, and lower down par le Roi; signed PHELIPEAUX; examined LOUIS; examined in council, *De l'Averdy*; and sealed with the great seal of green wax, in strings of red and green silk.

Registered, &c. in due form at *Paris*, in Parliament, all the Chambers assembled, 19 July, 1764.

Signed *Dufranc*.

* *Conseillers des Gens*.

Since

Since the foregoing Edict, Letters patents of the King which fix the duties on the Export and Import of Grain, and permit the circulation and Export of every kind of Grain paying the duties therein mentioned, were published at *Fontainebleau*, Nov. 7, 1764.

These are explanatory and in amendment of the Edict of July, 1764, and extend it to *Linseed, Rape-seed, Turnip-seed, Cole-seed, and others the like**, fit to make oil.

If any thing hath been done since the last it hath not come to hand.

During the year 1764, the propriety of the foregoing Laws has been fully, § 10. freely, calmly, and fairly, debated in print, in several pamphlets, &c. in *France*, some of which we have been favoured with, and subjoin the original titles, that those who think proper may procure them; and they will find in them a clear account of the nature of our Corn-laws with very little mistake: the chief or most material is in relation to opening the ports; they know it is done by the price in the Markets advancing to a certain value; but are not acquainted that it is ascertained at, and certified from, the Quarter-sessions, and that, when once the port is open, it is to remain so for a fixed time; but imagine, that if the Markets should fall ever so soon, or even after a *ship* is in the port, the *high* duties must be paid. Their Merchants must be

* Lin, Rabette, Navette, Colfat, et autres semblables.

better

better informed, at least those of any consequence, and yet it is very possible a mistake of this kind may at some times have prevented some Imports.

TITLES OF FRENCH PAMPHLETS.

Numb. 1. Contains upwards of 150

§ 11. pages, octavo.

“ De l'Exportation & de l'Importation
“ des Grains. *Mémoire lu à la Société Royale d'Agric-
“ culture de Soissons, par M. Dupont, l'un des
“ Associés, 1764.*

“ Lettre contre la liberté de l'Exportation.

“ Réponse à la lettre contre la liberté, &c.

“ Reflexions pour servir de seconde réponse.

Numb. 2. “ Reflexions sur la police des Grains
“ en FRANCE et en ANGLETERRE, *Mars, 1764.*”

From the first of these we shall give only
§ 12. one extract; at page 146, the Author, ha-
ving before recited many objections to the
scheme there proposed, adds, “ when it was under
“ consideration in *England* to restore Agriculture
“ from its perishing state by a grand operation, the
“ same reasonings stood in the way there, and were
“ then made use of, and even stronger; for, *at that time*
“ *we supported Spain entirely, and we supported Eng-
“ land more frequently than she comes at this day to our*
“ *assistance*”; we had, notwithstanding all this, at
“ that

* This is confirmed by *Howel*, see note, page 68, to be the case in 1621; and, in *Sam. Hartlib's* legacy of Husbandry, 3^d Ed. Lond.

"that time, still more lands capable of cultivation, so that the boldness of our neighbours was so much the greater. Let us compare the present state of our cultivation and of theirs, *and we shall find the solution.*"

The words for the Italics are *voilà la solution*; and the Author explains himself no farther, but leaves us to guess at his meaning; which seems to be precisely this, if *England* dared to attempt a revival of her Agriculture when ours was in such a flourishing state, and so much exceeded theirs, that we supported *Spain* entirely, assisted them oftener than they now do us, and still had more lands capable of cultivation; and notwithstanding all this, succeeded in the attempt. Surely *France*, whose present state of Agriculture will not be found, on the comparison, so deplorable as that of the *English* then was, need not fear to succeed in attempting its restoration.

Our extracts from the Reflections on the police of Corn in *France* and *England* will be somewhat longer.

London, 1655, page 93, are the following strong expressions; "Although the Husbandman hath been laborious and diligent in his calling *these last years*; yet our Crops have been thin; his cattle swept away, and *scarcity* and *famine* hath seized on all parts of this Land; and, if we had not been supplied from *abroad*, we had quite devoured all the creatures of this Island for our sustenance, and yet we could not be satisfied, but must have devoured one another." This appears to have been written in *Aug.* 1651.

Page 9, “ *England heretofore languish-*
 § 13. “ *ed in the bonds of an absolute prohi-*
 “ *bition**, it felt the same effects as we feel
 “ *at this day, a disregard of Tillage, a reduction of*
 “ *the price of labour, and poverty was the lot of all*
 “ *who had no other patrimony besides health and*
 “ *the labour of their hands. A writing, published in*
 “ *1621, by Sir Thomas Culpeper, informs us, that,*
 “ *at that time, the French with their Corn, and the*
 “ *Dutch with that of Poland, supplied the English*
 “ *Markets, and that the national Corn was continually*
 “ *below its true value: At present, says Culpeper, whilst*
 “ *Corn and the other Merchandises which the earth pro-*
 “ *duces are at a low price, the spade and the plow are*
 “ *forsaken. The poor find little employment, and wages*
 “ *are extremely low. If the proprietors of Lands could*
 “ *find their account in mending them, there would soon*
 “ *be many more people employed in their cultivation than*
 “ *there now are; and wages would be better. Every*
 “ *man blest with health and strength would not be poor*
 “ *except through extreme laziness†.*”

“ The ascendant which prejudice had on
 § 14. “ the multitude, and the weak and slow im-
 “ pression, which more solid and clear prin-
 “ ciples made on prepossession, did not permit the

* It was so in effect, though not in fact; see list of sta-
 tutes, page 52.

† Not being able to meet with *Culpeper's* book, the above is
 translated back from the *French*.

"*English* to distinguish readily the causes of their
 "poverty, and it was not till 1660 that our success
 "and their losses * opened their Eyes, &c."

He goes on to page 13 in giving an account of
 the progress of the alterations made in the *English*
 Corn-laws, and there says, "This is an account of
 "the origin, progress, and present state, of the *Eng-*
 "*lish* policy in relation to the Corn-trade. It was
 "established in passing through all the degrees of
 "experience necessary to form, with a knowledge
 "of the principles, a permanent plan."

"Nevertheless," he says page 17, "our policy is
 "still imperfect, and hath plain inconveniences
 "which cannot be removed as long as the Bounty
 "subsists."

And page 24, "By reason of prohibiting the
 "Importation, by excessive duties, *England* hath
 "been under a necessity to suspend sometimes that
 "free commerce therein to which the *English* are
 "indebted for the superiority of their Tillage, and
 "consequently, for the value of landed estates with
 "them †."

It may plainly be collected from this pam-
 phlet, which seems to be the work, or
 at least written under the direction, of the
 Author of *L'Ami des Hommes*, that the writer fore-

* What losses he refers to doth not appear: the Export-
 price was carried up to 40s. in 1660.

† The expression is *les forces du fonds national*.

fees, if by the continuation of the Bounty we go on to encourage the Export, and by the high duties prevent the free Importation, of Corn, the success of the late alterations in their Corn-laws, as far as they regard Exportation, will be more materially obstructed thereby than by any opposition which can be made to them at home; and there can be no foundation of hope to see the time return, when the Corn of *France* shall AGAIN supply the *English* Markets, and spoil the sales of that grown at home.

Page 35, &c. it is proved that the scarcity § 16. in *France* in 1740 was only imaginary, and arose solely from the restrictions on the Corn-trade, the circulating thereof being then unlawful, which prevented the Merchants from speculating in Corn; and by that means the whole stock was in the hands of the Farmer, who, on its growing dearer, left off selling, and withheld it in hopes of a still higher price: "An evil which, as he says, is inevitable in all places, where those who are possessed of the Corn have nothing to fear from the competition of Merchants from abroad, [or others.]—" Mr. *Orry*, he says, imported the value of Thirteen Millions *, but there was none of it sold, and that Corn perished, because on the arrival of that succour, "how moderate soever it was for a great Kingdom †, "where they talked of want, the fear of loss determined all to open their Granaries."

* Between 250,000 and 300,000 *English* quarters.

† Which is supposed to consume more than FIFTEEN MILLIONS of *London* quarters annually in Bread.

Have we not, more than once, found the
 § 17. like effects from a small Importation? Hath
 not every Importation, even at its beginning,
 such an effect as to prevent Corn growing dearer?
 And, do not these observations shew the necessity of
 fixing a price at which Corn should be permitted to
 be imported duty-free? Why should not Wheat,
 for instance, be imported duty-free, when the price
 thereof is returned to and certified from the Quar-
 ter-sessions to be fifty shillings, and other Grain in
 proportion?

We must, however, take care not to fix the price
 too low, lest we encourage foreign Agriculture to
 the detriment of our own.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE.

SECTION I.

EXTRACT from a pamphlet in 12mo, published
 at London by Carew Reynel, Esq. 1674, intituled,
 The true *English* Interest, page 59, of Marriage and
 Populacy. "Our people were consumed mightily
 "in these late years; some three hundred thousand

“ were killed in the late *Civil Wars*; and about two
“ hundred thousand more have been wasted in re-
“ peopling *Ireland*, and two hundred thousand lost
“ in the great *sickness*, and as many more gone to
“ the *Plantations*.”

All these together make 900,000, and perhaps the numbers are not greatly exaggerated. *Rapin*, vol. II. fol. 224, says, 40,000 were lost in the civil wars; but that he hath not given the whole number: the account of re-peopling *Ireland* seems probable, for, according to *Rapin*, vol. II. fol. 386, upwards of 300,000 were massacred there in 1643, besides what were afterwards killed in war. Near seventy thousand died of the sickness in the Bills only, and the numbers that for many years continually withdrew to the plantations were very great. And supposing these accounts to be true, more than *one eighth* of the people were lost by those means; not that it can be supposed the number was lessened by *one eighth*, these losses were many years coming about, and were at the same time continually making good.

We have, since 1674, had four wars, in which many lives were lost; but we have had no very considerable emigrations of our people; and, by the revocation of the *Edict* of *Nantz*, in 1685, and other means, have gained a very considerable number.

There

There have been since 1685 four several
 § 2. accounts taken of the number of houses in
England and Wales.

The first from the hearth-tax, published in 1691-2, by *John Houghton*, F. R. S. and reprinted in 1727, by *Richard Bradley*, F. R. S. in a collection of papers, called *Husbandry and Trade improved*, which makes the number 1,175,951: there are reasons to think this was the work of *Dr. Halley*; and this account is copied in the *Present State of England*.

The second, which is published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. xlix. fol. 268. by *Dr. Brackenridge*; who says, the Houses, about the year 1710, he finds from a public office which had caused an account to be taken of them in order to lay a tax, were 729,048, and the cottages which were omitted, he supposes one fourth more, in all 911,310.

The third, not published, was in the year 1755, but contained only the total number of Houses in *England and Wales* charged with the duty, which was 692,389.

The fourth, which also was not published, was in the year 1758, and contains an account of the total number of Houses in *England and Wales*, charged and not charged, inhabited and uninhabited, the whole number of which is 986,482, of which there were Cottages 282,429, and there were uninhabited 24,904.

This last must be supposed the most exact account ever taken; and, by its agreement with 1710 and

1758, we may conclude that the number hath in general continued much the same; as to that published in 1692, it appears to have been only a calculation made from the produce of the Hearth-tax; and the number of Houses set down, by supposing a certain number of Hearths, about *three* to each House, for the whole tax is said to have produced 256,000^s. per annum, which at 2s. per Hearth, allowing three to each house, will make the whole number amount to 853,333; the remaining number of 322,618, being little more than one fourth of the whole, may be supposed to have been added for Houses of and under 20s. a year, that were not chargeable.

And that this is not mere conjecture appears, in that the number of Houses in the Counties of *York*, *Middlesex*, including *London*, *Kent*, *Effex*, *Surrey*, and *Suffex*, in the account of 1758, is only 279,277, whereas in that of 1692 it is 336,103: that is more by 56,826 at that time than now †; and it will be diffi-

* *Rapin*, vol. 2. fol. 630.

† Numbers of House.		1692.	1758.
<i>Yorkshire</i>	_____	106,151	— 96,212
<i>Middlesex</i> with <i>London</i>	_____	100,136	—
<i>Ditto</i> and <i>Southwark</i>	_____	_____	89,736
<i>Kent</i>	_____	39,242	— 35,483
<i>Effex</i>	_____	34,819	— 26,769
<i>Surrey</i>	_____	34,218	— 14,721
<i>Suffex</i>	_____	21,537	— 16,356
Totals		336,103	— 279,277
Deduct		279,277	
Difference		56,826	

cult to prove that the number of Houses is lessened in those Counties since 1692.

This difference must therefore arise from the rate of Hearths, whatever it was, being too low, and consequently, calculating from the amount of the tax in each place, made the number of Houses too great.

By the account of 1758, 704,053 Houses were charged; by the account of 1755 only 692,389; now between those two years the Act of 31 G. II. c. 22. passed, which charged a greater number than the former Acts; so that these accounts agree very well with each other, and with that of 1710, which supposeth 729,048 the number proper to be taxed at that time; and it cannot be supposed but those sent to number them raised the account as high as possible. Upon the whole, there seems reason to think, that for this Century past the number of Houses hath been near one million, and six to each dwelling is not over-rating the people; which agrees with Dr. *Brackenridge*; as may be seen, *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. xlix. page 279; and he calculates the annual increase at 18,000, which, he says, is small, but without the increase of foreigners would be very inconsiderable, if any thing at all.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE SORTS OF BREAD, AND WHAT NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE EAT OF EACH.

IT is certain that Bread made of Wheat is become much more generally the food of the common people since 1689 than it was before that time, but it is still very far from being the food of the people in general; and some, who have considered this matter with great attention, and are better informed in regard thereto than most enquirers generally be, were inclined to think that, in the year 1764, one half of the people could not be supposed to feed on such Bread.

In order therefore to get at all possible certainty in this matter, no pains have been spared, and from a consideration of the several sorts of Grain with which the *London* Market is supplied from, and sends to the distant parts of the Kingdom, after many enquiries made of, and conversations held with, many who travel into, and have lived or live in, several of the distant Counties, particularly the labouring people, who are best acquainted with the Bread they eat, and calculating the number of mouths from the number of Houses, there is reason

to think that more than half the people do live on such Bread.

This work would be too tedious to insert; but an abstract follows, in which, though there may be some small difference as to the number of Houses as a full copy was not permitted, but only the total number and some extracts*, yet the whole number agrees with the account of 1758, and, if any thing, the number who eat wheat is set rather too low.

The Kingdom, with *Wales*, is divided into six parts, taking those Counties which lie most contiguous, as may be seen in the Map.

Part the first contains,

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <i>London with Middle-</i> | 8 <i>Buckingham,</i> |
| <i>sex and Southwark,</i> | 9 <i>Hertford,</i> |
| 2 <i>Essex,</i> | 10 <i>Bedford,</i> |
| 3 <i>Kent,</i> | 11 <i>Cambridge,</i> |
| 4 <i>Surrey,</i> | 12 <i>Huntingdon,</i> |
| 5 <i>Suffex,</i> | 13 <i>Suffolk,</i> |
| 6 <i>Hants,</i> | 14 <i>Norfolk,</i> |
| 7 <i>Berkshire,</i> | |

Part the second contains,

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 15 <i>Wilts,</i> | 18 <i>Devon,</i> |
| 16 <i>Somerset,</i> | 19 <i>Cornwall.</i> |
| 17 <i>Dorset,</i> | |

* Which see, note p. 202.

Part the third contains,

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 20 Monmouth, | 26 Northampton, |
| 21 Gloucester, | 27 Salop, |
| 22 Oxford, | 28 Stafford, |
| 23 Hereford, | 29 Leicester, |
| 24 Worcester, | 30 Rutland. |
| 25 Warwick, | |

Part the fourth contains,

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 31 Chester, | 34 Lincoln, |
| 32 Derby, | 35 Lancaster. |
| 33 Nottingham, | |

Part the fifth contains,

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 36 York, | 39 Cumberland, |
| 37 Westmorland, | 40 Northumberland. |
| 38 Durham, | |

Part the sixth contains,

Six Counties in South and six Counties in North
Wales.

The accounts of each part stand as follows.

Parts	Numb. of Houses.	Number of Souls fix to each.	What number in the whole eat.			
			Wheat	Barley	Rye	Oats
1	348,187	2,089,122	1,866,405	36,741	185,976	—
2	150,689	904,134	682,815	221,319	—	—
3	170,746	1,024,476	691,258	159,136	156,237	17,845
4	123,025	738,150	200,339	128,621	118,795	200,395
5	148,760	892,560	283,996	37,196	285,382	285,986
6	45,075	270,450	29,344	127,585	113,521	—
	986,482	5,918,892	3,754,157	710,598	859,911	594,226

Say the whole number is 6,000,000, and that of those who eat

Wheat is	3,750,000
Barley	— 739,000
Rye	— 888,000
Oats	— 623,000
Total	6,000,000

CHAPTER V.

OF THE QUANTITIES OF THE SEVERAL SORTS
OF GRAIN CONSUMED ANNUALLY IN THE
KINGDOM,

SECTION I.

THE quantity of Bread, which is daily or annually consumed by each individual, depends so much on his health, exercise, labour, constitution, and the quantity of his other sorts of food, that after all our enquiries we must be content with conjectures; but, in order to found such conjectures on probability, here follow what material informations could be obtained, with some observations thereon, and averages of each are struck.

Maitland, in his *Survey of London*, § 2. ed. 1756, fol. 756, says, "The Bakers, after some deliberation, unanimously agreed, that, including puddings and pies, and other pastry-ware, the quantity of Flour consumed in this City and suburbs would daily amount to *ten ounces* * per head," to supply which

* Wherever *English* weight is mentioned, that of *Avoirdupois* is meant.

requires

requires 5 b. 2 p. * of Wheat, *London* measure †, per annum.

Dr. *Brackenridge*, in *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. xlix. fol. 268, says, “ Now
 § 3. “ it is known, and I have observed in the
 “ country, that labouring people in health, on the
 “ average, eat one quarter, which is 512 lb. of Flour
 “ [annually] or 1 lb. 6 oz. per day; we may allow
 “ that healthy and unhealthy do not consume half
 “ that quantity one with the other; and, to make
 “ the consumption as *small* as can reasonably be ima-
 “ gined, *suppose* three people, children included,
 “ consume as one labourer, *i. e.* one quarter yearly,
 “ or each person 7 oz. per day, &c.” If the Doctor
 really means *Flour*, a third part must be added
 thereto, to shew the *Wheat*; if he mistakes *Meal* for
Flour, then it is the same as *Wheat*; but he makes
 his bushel 64 lb. whereas a bushel of *Meal* is only
 56 lb. we will suppose he means *Meal*, 512 lb.
 of which is full 1 qr. 1 b. per annum, the one-third
 of which is only 3 b.

* *Note*, the proportion of the *Flour* to the *Wheat* is as
 seven to nine of the fine sort, and as six to eight on a medium;
 which last proportion is followed throughout this Supplement,
 and the weight of the bushel of *Wheat* is called fifty-seven
 pounds, which is as much as all the *Wheat* fine and coarse to-
 gether, Statute-measure, would weigh; and here it may be
 proper to remark, that Statute, *London*, and *Winchester*, mea-
 sure, are all the same.

† *Note*, All the following accounts and quotations are re-
 duced to the same measure.

Mr.

Mr. *Hume*, in his *Essay*, *Edinb.* edit.
 § 4. 1752, page 235, of *antient Nations*, says,
 “The portion of Corn given every month
 “to every man of full years in *Rome* was 5 modii,
 “or about $\frac{2}{3}$ of an *English* bushel *; i. e. 1 qr. 2 b.
 “per annum.”

Mr. *Wallace*, of the number of mankind,
 § 5. *Edinb.* edit. 1753, page 293, speaking of
 the *Athenians*, says, “They had, of Grain
 “alone, more than one *Scotch* or about $1\frac{1}{2}$ *English*
 “peck a week to each of them; no inconsiderable
 “allowance, considering the plenty of fruits and
 “other provisions with which *Attica* abounded.” In
 proof of which he hath the following note, viz.
 “Many of the labouring people in *Scotland*, when
 “they are on board-wages, have no more a week
 “than two *Scotch* pecks of Oatmeal for the whole
 “maintenance. One *Scotch* peck is to an *English*
 “peck as 1,47 to one nearly.” The *Athenians* had
 2 qrs. 3 b. 2 p. of Wheat; and the *Scotch* have 4 qrs.
 7 b. of Oatmeal, per annum. But query, if there is

* Which, he says, “Was too little for a family, and too
 “much for an individual.” But, if by bushel is meant that of
London, it should seem he is mistaken; for, according to what
 he says, the contents of the *modius* weighed about 9 lb. 8 oz.;
 whereas, according to Dr. *Arbutnot*, it weighed 14 lb. and
 above $\frac{2}{3}$; say 14 lb. 8 oz. the contents corresponding to one
London peck, and 7,68 cub. inches; and we think Dr. *Arbut-*
not’s opinion preferable to Mr. *Hume*’s, as he made these sorts
 of enquiries his particular study, and calls this 1 qr. 7 b. 1 p.
 per annum.

not

not some mistake in the last? for, it will require 9 qrs. 6 b. of Oats to make 4 qrs. 7 b. of Meal.

In *Lancashire*, a measure of Oats, equal
 § 6. to near half a *London* bushel, makes 9 lb. which is a peck measure of Oatmeal, and what a labouring man eats in a week; *i. e.* 3 qrs. 2 b.* of Oats per annum.

Recberche de Monnoie, printed at *Paris*,
 § 7. 1762, page 157, says, “a modius, or
 “*Roman* bushel of Wheat, was sufficient
 “to support a man a week; it is the present *Tuscan*
 “bushel, and contains 16 lb. marc weight †. The
 “*Egyptian* bushel, which is at this day the *Paris*
 “bushel †, which the *Romans* frequently used,
 “weighed *twenty French* pounds. Our *peasants*, one
 “with another, with the animals which they support,
 “consume in the same time of eight days *twenty*

* *Note*, Two quarters of Oats will seldom make one quarter of Oatmeal.

† It is natural to suppose the *Tuscan* pound is here meant; but, by the Author saying the *Italians* are a little more moderate, it should rather be understood of that of *Paris*, for then they eat 1 qr. 7 lb. per annum; *i. e.* four-fifths of what the *French* eat; although, if it is taken in this sense, it should seem there was no need to apologize for the great stomachs of the *peasants* in comparison of the *Italians*, by introducing other animals, and saying Bread is almost all they eat. However, we prefer the alteration as most probable.

‡ Twelve *Paris* bushels make one setier, and the quarter of *London* is one setier and $\frac{1}{4}$; therefore, the setier is 4 b. 1 p. and $\frac{1}{2}$. See *Essai sur les Monnoies*, fol. 68.

“pounds,

“pounds, of sixteen ounces: It is true, Bread is al-
 “most *all* they eat, and that the *Italians* are a little
 “more moderate.” Sixteen pounds marc weight of
Tuscany are, by *Pereira's* tables, equal to about 8 lb.
 avoirdupois; *i. e.* 7 b. 1 p. per annum. *Note,*
 twenty pounds of *Paris* make 21 lb. 14 oz. 6 dr. but
 we shall go by the measure, and 52 bushels of *Paris*
 make $4\frac{1}{2}$ setiers; *i. e.* 2 qrs. 3 b. per annum.

Essai sur les Monnoies, printed at *Paris*,
 § 8. 1746, page 52, in the notes, says, “It is
 “not thought too high an estimation of
 “the consumption of men, one with the other, to
 “rate it at three setiers a year; if there are those
 “who eat less, there are a great many who consume
 “more.” Now three setiers are full equal to 1 qr.
 4 b. 3 p. *London* measure.

Page 57, “It is estimated that those who are
 “the greatest eaters of new and soft Bread, consume
 “four setiers a year (*i. e.* 2 qrs. 1 b.) but that
 “a fourth part remains in Bran*. Workmen and
 “laborious people, who eat only *brown* bread, eat
 “more; it may be reckoned that those whose labour
 “is the hardest, as porters, &c. consume as far as
 “three pounds a day.” $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is 1 qr. 4 b. 3 p. and
 3 lb. is 2 qr. 1 b. per annum †.

“Each domestic of *Paris*, on the footing of 9 lb.
 “of Bread per week, without reckoning that eaten in

* This agrees with note, p. 209; which see.

† Note, in this Bread the bran is included.

“soup,

“soup, or that which they eat as way-bits, would
 “consume annually 468 lb. of white Bread, or
 “three setiers of Wheat at least: it will require
 “more for workmen who eat very little meat, and
 “who have not that which one gives to domesticks
 “besides their Bread.”

Three setiers are equal to 1 qr. 4 b. 3 p. *London* measure.

But, notwithstanding what this Author hath said as above, he hath in his notes, page 57, as follows, viz.

“The prisoners, according to the eleventh
 § 9. “article of the Arret of Parliament, published the 18th June, 1717, ought to have
 “each of them per day a loaf of good quality and
 “of the weight of 1½ lb. at least; so that the setier
 “of Wheat, making 272 lb. of *brown* bread, will
 “last them 181½ Days, and they will consume two
 “setiers of Wheat at least in a year, i. e. 1 qr. 0 b.
 “2. p. The ration of every soldier is the same, a
 “pound and a half besides meat and wine.

“The cavalry are furnished, even on the march,
 “with 36 ounces of Bread per day, i. e. 1 qr. 4 b.
 “3 p. besides two pounds of meat, and a pint and
 “half of wine. They consume each three setiers
 “on this footing. The *Quinze-vingts*, * who had formerly four, have now only three setiers.”

* A sort of hospital at *Paris* for blind men and women, both married and single, who beg in the churches and streets. *Richelieu*.

It appears that our soldiers have also
 § 10. one pound and a half of Bread a day when
 encamped, and that the prisoners in some
 gaols * have the same; both these are *brown* bread
 made sometimes with the Bran taken out, and some-
 times with it left in, suppose half of each sort, and
 then the consumption is about 1 qr. 1 b. per head
 yearly.

In the Royal Hospitals, at *Chelsea* and
 § 11. *Greenwich*, the allowance is one pound per
 head a day of *wheaten* Bread, which it is
 said will go as far as a larger quantity of brown,
i. e. 7 b. of Wheat a year.

From the inspection of the accounts
 § 12. of a parish-workhouse, within five miles
 of *London*, for seven years †, it appears
 that they have consumed on the average six pounds
 of Bread per head weekly; *i. e.* six bushels of Wheat
 a year.

* In *London* the prisoners have of *Wheaten* Bread only one
 penny loaf per day, and in some other gaols one three penny
 loaf every two days; consequently these allowances vary ac-
 cording to the price of Wheat; when Wheat is 4s. a bushel the
 first is 11 oz. and the last sixteen.

† *Viz.* from *March*, 1753, to *March*, 1760, and the numbers
 and ages of the poor on the average were as follows, not ex-
 ceeding ten years 15, ten to thirty 10, thirty to fifty 13, fifty to
 seven y 31, seventy and upwards 5; in the whole seventy-four.

A Baker says, "When I was an apprentice in the country, we served two single men who were *shepherds*, who constantly ate, the one five quartern loaves, and the other four, every week, *i. e.* 2 qrs. 3 b. 2 p. per annum each."

Two Citizens of *London*, the one a Jeweller, and the other a Printer, say; the first, that he hath ten in family, of which seven are apprentices, that their weekly consumption of Bread and Flour is seven half-peck loaves, *i. e.* 6 b. 2 p. per head, per annum; the second that he hath six in family, four of which are apprentices, and that his weekly expence of Bread and Flour is six half-peck loaves, *i. e.* 1 qr. 2 p. per head per annum.

The medium of these two might be taken for the average of the Bread consumed by the labouring people in *London*, *i. e.* 7 b. 2 p. but deduct the two pecks, and call it only seven bushels.

Two Farmers, who live in *Essex*, in such a situation, that what they and their servants eat at market at least equals what their visitors eat in their houses, consume in their families, which together consist of seventeen persons, in Flour annually, 24 sacks, *i. e.* 1 qr. 1 b. 1½ p. per head.

And

And it appears upon enquiry, from the quantity of *Bread-Corn* ground at a mill in the country for several families there, that they consume about the like quantity per head.

Extract of a Letter from *Newcastle* upon
§ 16. *Tyne*, Oct. 1765.

“ With regard to the quantity of Rye
“ which will serve one man in Bread for one year,
“ the most exact calculation I can get is as follows :

“ A labouring man generally eats in a week as
“ much Rye Bread as costs him 1s 3d. which
“ weighs 20 lb. 10 oz. and I am informed a *Win-*
“ *chester* bushel of Rye, when baked, weighs four
“ stone, so that at that rate a man will eat in a year
“ nineteen bushels of Rye, 2 qrs. 3 b. See the note
“ at the end of the next Section.

“ That kind of Grain is not so much used now
“ amongst the poorer sort of people as formerly;
“ for almost all the pitmen, and those labouring men
“ that earn above nine or ten shillings a week, eat
“ Wheaten-bread; so that I reckon only one half
“ of the labouring people in this country are now
“ fed with Rye.”

Upon receipt of the above, a request was made to know what quantity of Wheat a man consumed, and the following answer returned.

“ The

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“The Wheat-bread most in use a-
 §. 17. “mongst the labouring people is what
 “we call Household-bread, made of 1st,
 “2d, 3d, and 4th, Flour all mixed together: a la-
 “bouring man will eat of this Bread in a week as
 “much as costs him 1s. 9d. which weighs, accord-
 “ing to the present standard, 18lb. 11½oz.; and, ac-
 “cording to the best information I can get, a bushel
 “of Wheat, *Winchester* measure, produces of Flour
 “3ft. 5lb. weight, and it gains, when baked into
 “bread, 6lb. which makes 3ft. 11lb. in Bread.
 “At this rate I reckon a man will eat, in a year,
 “18½b. of Wheat, 2qrs. 2b. 1p.

	ft.	lb.
" One Bushel of good Wheat	4	7
" Deduct for Bran and Meal	}	1 2
" when ground		
	3	5 neat Flour."

Note, This writer is extremely exact; the only error he falls into is one common to the most accurate writers, *viz.* the taking for his calculations the weights of the *best* Wheat and Rye, which is 6lb. above the average, and, consequently, we should call the first 2qrs. 5b. and the second 2qrs. 4b. op.½.

In order to make what hath been said intelligible, let us bring the same under one view, by giving

P

A LIST

A LIST of the foregoing accounts, be-
 § 19. ginning with the least, and correcting Hume's
 account of the Romans, and the account
 from Recherche de Monnoie, of the Tuscans, by Ar-
 buthnot.

Section	qrs.	b.	p.
3 Brakenridge's average	—	—	0 3 0
2 Maitland's ditto	—	—	0 5 2
12 Workhouse	—	—	0 6 0
14 Citizens	—	—	0 7 0
11 Hospitals wheaten	—	—	0 7 0
9 French prisoners and soldiers	—	1	0 2
3 Brackenridge's labourers	—	1	1 0
10 Our soldiers and prisoners	—	1	1 0
15 Farmers and Families	—	1	1 0½
8 Average of French nation	—	1	4 3
8 Domestics of Paris	—	1	4 3
9 French Cavalry and Quinze-Vingts	—	1	4 3
8 Ditto labourers	—	1	4 3
7 Italians 0 7 1 } by Arbutnnot }		1	7 0
4 Romans 1 2 0 }		1	7 1
8 French eaters of new Bread	—	2	1 0
8 Ditto porters	—	2	1 0
7 Ditto peasants	—	2	3 0
5 Athenians	—	2	3 2
13 English shepherds	—	2	3 2
17 Ditto pitmen	—	2	4 0
Note, All the above are Wheat.			
5 Stotch labourers } Oats.		4	7 0
6 Lancashire ditto }		3	2 0
17 Pitmen, Rye	—	2	5 0

From

From the several accounts thus placed,
 § 20. however trifling they may seem, there is
 reason to conclude, that the quantity of
 Corn consumed by the most laborious part of man-
 kind hath been, in all places, and at all times, nearly
 the same, varying only according as the quantity of
 other food was more or less.

And from the said accounts may also be
 § 21. formed some calculation of what the an-
 nual quantities of Wheat, Rye, and Oats,
 are, on the average, which each person consumes in
England.

And, first as to Wheat, Dr. *Brackenridge's* three
 bushels is so much below any account we ever found
 confirmed by facts, that it ought to be left quite out
 of the question. Our *shepherds* and *pitmen* consume
 so much above the common rate, that too much re-
 gard should not be paid to the accounts of what
 they eat, though very well attested. Mr. *Mait-
 land's* account is given after so careful an enquiry,
 that it ought not to be entirely disregarded; but it
 is only a calculation founded on opinion, and it is
 most probable that both the Workhouse account,
 considering the sort of people maintained there, and
 the account of the Citizens, considering the quantity
 of other provisions it is most likely their families
 eat, are below the average of the consumption in
London: for, besides that they are barely equal to
 the consumption in the hospitals, it must be sup-

posed that much the greater part of the people do much harder labour, and are not otherwise so well fed.

Dr. *Brackenridge's* account of labourers in the country, which is given from his own observation, agrees so well with the allowance to our soldiers and prisoners, and with the consumption of the farmers and families in the country, which are found, after repeated enquiries, to be just, that it might very reasonably be taken for the average of the consumption of all eaters of Wheat, more especially when it is remembered how much the greater part of the people are in the state of life he mentions, and how much more our *shepherds* and *pitmen* eat:

However, that respect may be paid where it is due, let us suppose the whole number of men, women, and children, who feed on Wheat, to be divided in eight parts, and that one part consumes according to Mr. *Maitland's*, another according to the *Workhouse*, a third according to the *Citizen's* account, two others as the Doctor's labourers, and the remaining three parts according to the farmers; and the average will be 1 qr. and something more as may be seen below *; but let us call it only the *London* or *Winchester* quarter, which although it is more than the general

* *London* and the *Bills* are generally esteemed about one tenth of the people; so that if we suppose three eighths to eat below what we have reason to esteem the average there, only two eighths at what appears the general average, and the remain-
ing

general estimation, is still rather below our opinion, and not two thirds of the consumption in *France*, even in *Paris*; and it doth not appear, there is sufficient reason to suppose we eat so much less; for, our *shepherds* and *pitmen* prove themselves equal good Bread eaters with the *French labourers* and *porters*.

As to Rye, there can be but little difference between that and Wheat, and it may be called 1 qr. 1 b. the *Newcastle* account making it appear not to go quite so far as Wheat.

As to Oats, Mr. *Wallis's* account supposing it 4 qrs. 7 b. of Oats, as it approaches that of the greatest eaters both at home and abroad, it tends to strengthen and confirm them; but, as we are afraid we do not fully understand his meaning, we shall content ourselves with the *Lancaster* account, and deduct therefrom 3 b. calling the average only 2 qrs. 7 b.

ing three eighths the next degree higher; discarding the rest, it seems very moderate.

	qrs.	b.	p.
One <i>Maitland</i>	—	0	5 2
One Workhouse	—	0	6 0
One Citizen	—	0	7 0
Two labourers	—	2	2 0
Three farmers	—	3	4 0½
Total		8	0 2½

P 3

There

There could not be any certain account
§ 24. of barley obtained, other than that of an old careful man, who hath occasionally fed a large family with Barley-bread in dear times, and faith that he always found it as cheap to feed his family with Wheat as with Barley, unless he could buy the Barley at two-thirds of the price of Wheat. Now the average bushel of Barley will weigh barely 49 lb. which is five-sixths of the weight of Wheat, and, if we allow one sixth more for the deficiency of nourishment in Barley than Wheat, it agrees with his account, and we should suppose the consumption of Barley 1 qr. 4 b. per head; but as the family might not like barley-bread so well, or be so careful of it as of Wheaten-bread, and there doth not appear so much difference between the other Grains, say 1 qr. 3 b.

Having now done with regard to the
§ 25. quantity of Corn consumed in Bread, let us consider what quantity is consumed in drink; and that made into beer appears to have been, on the average, from the account of the produce of the tax on Malt made for home-consumption for fifty years, beginning with 1703 inclusive, and ending with 1753 exclusive, as follows:

Years

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Years		Averages *.	
from	to	qrs.	b.
1703	1713	2,959,063	7
1713	1723	3,542,157	2
1723	1733	3,358,071	2
1733	1743	3,215,094	2
1743	1753	3,404,026	1

The general average of which is 3,295,682 qrs. 4 b. which may be called 3,300,000, and still be a very moderate account; for, by Stat. 12 *Anne*, c. 2. § 20. 24 bushels of wet Malt is to be taken as 20 b. dry, and we may suppose the Duty is sometimes evaded, and there can be no doubt but those families who have compounded for the Duties found their account in so doing.

We are now to consider what quantities
 § 26. of each sort of Corn are annually consumed for other uses besides those of making Bread and Beer. In which we shall be obliged to trust more to conjecture than in the foregoing estimates; and yet it may be hoped, that from what will be said some general idea may be formed of the amounts of the annual consumption, and, consequently of the whole growth of the several sorts.

As to Wheat, the Meal or Flour thereof is used

* The regularity of the amount of this tax may be taken as arguments that the numbers of the people have continued nearly equal.

by Distillers, Starch-makers, Paper-hangers, Stationers, Book-binders, Linen-printers, and Trunk-makers, and probably by some others; it is impossible to say the exact quantity consumed by all or either of these, but the whole annual quantity we esteem at 90,000 qrs. the distillery using barely half that quantity.

As to Rye, the Meal thereof is used by Tanners and to fatten hogs, and many Pease and some Beans and Barley are used for this last purpose.

Maitland, fol. 758, says, 186,932 hogs are sold annually in London; call this one fourth of the consumption; and, considering the hogs used for the Navy, say, 800,000 is the whole consumption of the Kingdom; allow these *two* bushels of Corn each, the amount is 200,000 qrs; of which say, Pease and Beans 100,000, Barley 70,000, Rye 30,000, to which add for Tanners and other uses 1,000, and the Rye, besides for Bread, will be 31,000 qrs.

As to Barley, say the Distillers use 44,000 qrs. besides Malt, which is accounted for before, to this add the 70,000 for hogs, and 3,000 for fowls, and the Barley used, besides for Bread and Beer, will be 117,000 qrs.

As to Oats, the average of the quantities brought by water, and measured in Lon-

don in 1752 and 1765 is	—	290,266
Brought by land, not measured annually		20,800
		311,066
		From

QUANTITIES OF GRAIN CONSUMED. 225

From which must be deducted, being for
double the quantities of 179 qrs. 7 b.
Oatmeal exported and 1,513 qrs. of Oats
sold *Victualing-Office* 3,385

Consumed in *London* 307,681

Call the consumption of the Kingdom little more
than eight-fold, and it will be 2,461,500 of Oats
annually consumed, besides in Bread.

No notice hath been taken in the foregoing ac-
counts of Beans or Pease, a very considerable quan-
tity of each of which is consumed annually, both
green and in the Grain, for the food of man, and
in the last for the food of beasts, and no inconfi-
derable quantity of Pease are shipped and used for
part of the food of the Royal Navy and other ships,
and of Beans for the Negro slaves.

It may be supposed that the Beans sold annually
in *London* for the Negroes is 20,000 qrs. that horses
eat 10,000, together 30,000; and, if this is called
a third of the consumption it will make the whole
90,000.

The Pease sold annually in *London* to the Victual-
ling Office for an average of years hath been 4964 qrs.
to private Bisket-bakers about 3000, the soup is
supposed to consume 500, together 8464; call this
a fourth, the amount is near 34,000; to which add
the 100,000 given to hogs, and the whole will be
134,000 qrs.

The quantity of seeds sold for oil in *London* an-
nually varies very much, but it is supposed it may
some

be set at 15,000, and to be about the sixth of the consumption, which makes the whole 90,000 qrs.

Of the whole quantity of all sorts of Corn and Grain, annually grown, it is supposed, that *one tenth* is expended in seed for to produce the ensuing Crop: some indeed say a larger proportion is used for that purpose with us. And a *French* writer * says, *one sixth* is applied to that use with them, it should seem it cannot be less than one tenth; if it is more, the Export will still be a less part of the growth than it seems at present.

The foregoing accounts and estimates are brought together, and shewn in every view that seemed necessary to make them useful, from page 160 to 166, and some short remarks are there made on them; to which we cannot forbear to add, that from them, it appears, we depend more *immediately* than most men imagine for our daily Bread on Providence, whose gifts are so equally and regularly dealt out, that it very rarely happens, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the seasons, on which the whole in appearance so much depends, that the annual produce of the earth is not equal to the necessary support and wants of man, provided he is not wanting on his part to endeavour to obtain it by a due application to that labour to which he was at first condemned, and

* *Essai sur les monnoies*, fol. 19.

† He must be 34 years storing it up in common Crops, and more cannot be expected; and, besides the time it would take up, many other obstructions, some of which are noted in the foregoing work, tend to render such an attempt abortive.

from which he never can be dispensed with; for, let him exert all his skill and abilities to the utmost, it seems impossible for him to obtain so great a surplus $\dagger$ as to have it in his power to forbear to till the ground, even for one year, but that he must throughout his life subsist by a continual labour and constant dependence on Him who hath promised that seed-time and harvest shall never fail.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE HOUSES, INHABITANTS, AND CORN CONSUMED IN LONDON AND PARIS.

IN the course of the foregoing enquiries, some accounts were met with, which, at first sight, seemed to lead to the stating of a more particular comparison of the numbers of Houses and Inhabitants, and quantity of Corn consumed annually in *London* and *Paris*, than hath yet appeared.

But a very little application discovered the mistake; and from the judicious remarks made concerning those two Cities, by the Author of the *Police of France*, part. 5. fol. 123, it appears probable, that all the comparisons, which will ever be made, will be done with so small a degree of certainty, that they will serve for little more than to amuse, which is all that the reader hath to expect from the contents of this Chapter.

The

The exact number of Houses in *London* and the bills of mortality could not be obtained; but, in 1758, the whole number in *London, Westminster, Southwark*, and the whole County of *Middlesex*, was 89,736; and, if we suppose the number in the County of *Middlesex* out of the bills equal to that in *Surrey*, viz. 14,721, the number in *London* and the bills will be 75,015, and each house must contain eight persons to make the number of Inhabitants 600,120; *i. e.* one tenth of the people, which they are generally esteemed.

According to the rule laid down by Dr. *Brackenridge**, which was founded on observation, of adding 2,000 for Dissenters and Jews to the annual bill of mortality, and multiplying by thirty, it appears, that the number hath been from the year 1680 to 1760 on the average 766,090; *i. e.* above ten to a house.

Here follow the averages of the bills of Mortality for the said time †.

Years	from	bills	added	Inhabitants
1680 to 1700	—	21,566	—	23,566 — 706,980
1700 — 1720	—	22,685	—	24,685 — 740,550
1720 — 1740	—	26,990	—	28,990 — 869,700
1740 — 1760	—	22,905	—	24,905 — 747,150
1680 — 1760	—	23,536½	—	25,536½ — 766,090

* Philosophical Transactions, vol. xlix. article 95.

† Note, These averages are taken from the account published by *Corbyn Morris*, Esq. to 1750, and continued down to 1760 in his method.

We

We are unable to reconcile these accounts; but, by whatever number the bills are or should be multiplied, it will appear, if we trust to them, that, although the buildings are so much increased, yet the number of people are of late diminished within the bills of mortality, and that from 1740 to 1760 there was not one-eighteenth more than from 1680 to 1700, nor doth the destruction of the human species diminish but increase; for, the births in the first period were as 681 to 1000, in the last only 638, as may be seen by the account.

*An account of the proportion of the births to the burials
in London, &c.*

1680 — 1700 as 681	} to 1,000.
1700 — 1720 — 721	
1720 — 1740 — 649	
1740 — 1760 — 638	
1680 — 1760 — 672	

Some idea may be formed how destructive the above difference hath been by the following account of the numbers which have been lost by the deaths exceeding the births, viz.

	per ann.	total.
1680 to 1700 —	6,877	137,553
1700 — 1720 —	6,317	126,353
1720 — 1740 —	9,473	189,467
1740 — 1760 —	8,281	165,630
1680 — 1760 —	7,737	619,003

After the above was written, whilst the work was in the press, we have had an opportunity to complete the account for the last five years, ending Dec. 1765, and the average is

Deaths with addition Inhabitants

23,993 — 25,993 — 779,790

Births to Burials as 664 to 1000.

Loss per annum 8,061; in the whole 40,305.

By the best accounts that could be obtained of the Corn-trade in *London*, the annual average of the whole quantity measured by the Meters for *seventeen* years, ending with 1764, was * 1,200,000 qrs. and two-thirds of that quantity hath been sold in Meal, Flour, Barley, Malt, Oats, Beans, and Pease, with which the said Meters had nothing to do, in the whole 2,000,000 qrs. of which * 150,386 qrs. 1 bush. have been exported †, and 28,053 qrs. 3 bu. have been delivered to the Victualling Office ‡, for the service of the Navy. For these a deduction must be made of 356,879 qrs. being double their amounts by reason they have been measured twice, we must

† Export.

5,624	1	Barley
68	0	Malt
179	7	Oatmeal
4,473	1	Rye
140,041	0	Wheat

* 150,386 1
28,053 3

178,439 4 double is

‡ Vict. Office.

5,098	0	Malt
4,964	3	Pease
2,109	4	Oatmeal
1,513	6	Oats
14,367	6	Wheat

28,053 3

356,879 0

also

also deduct 70,000 qrs. for half that quantity carried coastways and laid up, which is also measured twice; also 300,000 qrs. for Oats, 40,121 qrs. for 20,060 qrs. 4 bush. of Beans and Pease shipped off, 18,000 qrs. for the same eaten by horses at home, and 15,000 qrs. for seeds: all these deductions amount to 800,000 qrs. and leave 1,200,000 qrs. for the support of the Inhabitants in Bread and Beer, and for other uses.

Great as this quantity appears, it seems to be much under-rated, if common report says true, viz. that more than half thereof is annually expended in drink.

If the drink consumes 660,000 qrs. it is *one-fifth* of all the Malt for which duty hath been paid, and the Citizens seem to drink more than their share; for they are but about *one-ninth* of the Beer-drinkers, as it is reckoned that there are about nine hundred thousand persons in the Cider Counties, viz. *Somerset, Gloucester, Worcester, Devon, Monmouth, and Hereford*, and that *full* two-thirds of them drink no Beer.

But please to remember that all these accounts are founded on conjecture, except those which have an asterisk before them.

In one year, ending Nov. 8, 1765, the quantity of Oats measured was 316,416 qrs. In one other year, ending Nov. 8, 1752, the quantity was 264,117 qrs. so that the annual increase in the consumption in *thirteen* years is 52,299 qrs. which will
main-

maintain 4,023 horses, allowing each *two* bushels a week.

This increase in the consumption of Oats in *London* is wholly attributed to the greater number of horses kept now than heretofore, and one principal cause of their being kept is the great improvements made in the roads, and as those improvements are now become almost general throughout the Kingdom, we may suppose the additional number in the whole at least *eight-fold* that in *London*; and then, can it be made a query, whether the Land employed to grow food for the said horses is not one means of raising the price of black cattle?

That the number of horses hath increased in *London* as above is highly probable; for, all the Oats in 1765, at the same rate of allowance, after deducting 46,416 for other purposes, will support only 20,000; and all the Oats in 1752, after deducting 43,117, would support but 17,000; so that the increase is only from seventeen to twenty, *i. e.* not from four to five.

The houses in *Paris* 1736 were 28,571. But the Author of the *Police*, page 125, says, "That the *French* Authors have calculated the number differently, some at 30,000, others at 28,000, and therefore he takes the difference, and putting down 29,000, and allowing, as the *French* Authors pretend, 20 persons to each House, the number of people would be 580,000;" but he observes, page 129, the bills of mortality there are less extensive than

than those at *London*; and observes farther, page 131, that the Boundaries of the circumference of the City have not been enlarged since 1724, the date of the last Edict, which circumscribed the extent of those boundaries; with liberty, nevertheless, of enlarging the Buildings contained therein.

And we are well informed, that several large houses have since that time been destroyed, and in their stead, and in vacant places, many smaller houses have been built.

The average of the Corn consumed in Paris in the years 1729 and 1730, in French and English measure, was as under.

	<i>French measure.</i>			<i>English measure.</i>	
	muids	set.	boisseau	qrs.	b.
Wheat and Rye	81,241	10	4 —	528,072	1
Oats —	17,283	7	0 —	112,343	2
Barley	2,699	4	6 —	17,545	6
	101,224	9	10 —	657,961	1

Note, The muid is *twelve* setiers, each *twelve* bushels of all Corn, except Oats, and there the setier is divided into twenty-four bushels, but two of these bushels are no more than one of the first*.

* See Police, page 101.

The muid, as well as the setier, being the same in all, and as the setier is 4 b. $1\frac{1}{2}$ p. *London* measure, the muid contains exactly 6 qrs. 4 b. *London* measure.

My Author says, that allowing a muid, *i. e.* 6 qrs. 4 b. of Oats, to keep a horse a year, there would not be found full 17,300 in *Paris* in 1729: it is to be observed, that, allowing double that quantity, the horses in *London* in 1752 were 17,000, and in the year 1765 were increased to 20,000.

Such of these accounts as relate to *France*, which are not noted to be taken from the Author of the *Police*, may be found in the *Essai sur les Monnoies*, from page 50 to 61, &c. which work contains many entertaining and useful conjectures.

We could have wished to have been more particular, but it was not in our power.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE STATE OF THE CORN-TRADE IN FRANCE.

THE Author of *Gazette du Commerce*, in his papers of the 22d and 27th of *September*, 1764, No. 76 and 77, hath inserted the following speech made by *Mr. De Caradeuc de la Chalotais*, Procureur Général to the parliament of *Brittany*, on the 20th of *August* preceding; when he carried into Court the Edict of the month of *July*, 1764, a translation of which we have given, page 186, requiring it to be registered.

What the general State of the Corn-trade hath been in *France*, for more than a century preceding that Edict, may be seen from the said Speech, the purport whereof is as follows :

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to inform you of the most signal benefit with which his Majesty can gratify his people, a liberty to trade in Corn.

After having permitted the free circulation in the interior part of the Kingdom, by his declaration of the 25th of *May*, 1763, the King grants by this Edict, which I bring into Court, the entire liberty of exportation and importation. He permits all his sub-

jects to trade in all sorts of Corn, Grain, Pulse, Flour, &c. either with natural-born subjects or strangers.

You may understand this Edict, Gentlemen, as a presage of the increase and improvement of Agriculture, which will infallibly be the source of the re-establishment and prosperity of the Kingdom.

In short, thanks to his Majesty, and the Minister who manages his finances, the system of prohibitions seems to be abandoned for ever; a fatal system, which forbids the subjects of the same sovereign to lend each other mutual assistance, and cuts off between *France* and other nations that communication of exchanging superfluities for necessaries which is so conformable to the order of Divine Providence. Particular permissions, that useless resource, which enriched a few private persons at the expence of the nation, will not for the future discourage the Farmer. We shall no more be in fear of want; nor, which is almost as much to be dreaded, the too great abundance of Crops. We shall no more fear, above all, excessive variations in the price of Corn, equally hurtful with scarcity itself. In short, we may hope for an *equitable plan of taxations*, founded upon true and simple principles, the cultivation of the lands, and the augmentation of the riches of the State *.

I shall

* Hence, says the ingenious Author of *The Laws and Police of England examined*, &c printed for T. Harrison, 1765, we may conceive that the proposals, lately offered for promoting Agriculture in *France*, are not likely ever to be carried into execution, whilst the Intendants have a power to raise the

taille

I shall not stand, Gentlemen, to prove truths at present too well known, and carried to the highest degree of demonstration by so many solid works, which are the produce of the knowledge of zealous and well-informed Citizens.

Who is unacquainted, That it is the Earth only giveth riches, because it only produceth and reproduceth annually a new stock? That the sale of merchandise is the only means to cause a circulation of money, which is only the representation of the more real riches, the fruits of the Earth? That a State rich in productions, which it can sell, will necessarily be rich in money? But let its Merchandise fail, or find no sales, it feels infallibly the want of circu-

taille réelle, or Land-tax, from time to time, according to the improved culture of their ground: whereas the Land-tax in *England*, though in some respects an unequal rate, yet, being fixed on the original registered value, the quota payable by each county remains equally the same, notwithstanding the several districts may be improved to yield a larger share of productions, and which indeed, without such a sanction and protection, would not receive *any* improvement at all, page 32. And the same Author, at page 57, after having referred to and explained what is here said, goes on, although *ordonnances* have been lately published for allowing a free export of Corn, at some districts and at some certain seasons, yet, how vain are all such local and temporary expedients, whilst the nature of their constitution will not admit of that general freedom of sale which I have so often laid down as most essential and necessary for promoting the interest of every Trade both at home and abroad! He then explains the benefits we have received from the Corn exported.

What this intelligent Author hath advanced, and *Mr. Chabotais* hath thrown out, may serve to abate our fears of the Effects of those Edicts, but should by no means put us off our guard.

lation of Specie, and falls into a languor, which, in its effects, is equally bad as poverty. It is therefore certain, that the most useful of all political laws is that which gives the greatest facility to the sale of the productions of the Earth. The necessaries for consumption, taxes, even the trade of the nation, all take their rise from the sale of merchandise; therefore we cannot extend this source too much, nor be too careful how we straiten it: if it should be dried up, the evils of the State would be without remedy and without bounds.

I shall confine myself, Gentlemen, to a few slight observations on the necessity of the exportation of the principal merchandise (Corn): they may appear unnecessary, since his Majesty hath established its truth in a perpetual and irrevocable Edict; an Edict conformable to the prayers of the nation which obtained it, to that of the States of this Province*, to Experience, which is the instructor of man, to the sentiments of HENRY THE GREAT, and the illustrious SULLY, to the opinion of all those who have examined this question without prejudice and without interest, an examination, in regard to which no one hath hitherto presumed publicly to contradict either the reasons, the facts, or the calculations†. But it is requisite to encourage the timorous, to instruct those who are not as yet fully informed, to

* Deliberations on the 1 Feb. 1759; 15 Sept. 1760; and 7 Sept. 1761.

† This seems to refer to the French pamphlets quoted p. 194.

remove all mistrust from the people. We have no reason to fear when we are laying down maxims which promise the good of the State.

Is there any necessity, by a long chain of reasoning, to prove, that to prevent the sale of Corn is to prohibit the cultivation? that such prohibition hath made the profession of a Farmer in *France* *, although the most necessary, the most unhappy, of all the professions in the State? that a free trade in Grain, both within and without the Kingdom, is the sole and only means to put the Farmer and Land-owners in a condition to support public and private expences?

Let us not fear to descend to particulars: Experience is the foundation of all physical enquiry; calculation is the measure. We arrive at general maxims only by the knowledge of particular facts.

The necessary expences of every cultivation whatsoever are the seed, the plowing, the manure, the expences to harvest, to lay up and to preserve the crop. It is necessary that the Farmer make interest of the money advanced wherewith to subsist himself and family, pay tithes, taxes, and his landlord, whose expences ascertain the payment of the other classes of the state, who, being composed of neither Landowners nor Farmers, live at the expence of those who are.

The earth doth not produce every year the best of

* *In France*; these words are here and in many other places inserted to keep the reader in mind that what is said relates to *France*.

Grain; it must have years of rest. It is necessary to take into consideration good and bad years, and place to the account unforeseen accidents, for they will not be wanting.

Now, in calculating these expences at the lowest rate possible, it appears that the Setier of Wheat is barely worth to the Farmer that which it cost him; men well skilled in Agriculture have made the calculation, and desire all Landowners to make it themselves: it is a work which relates to all men, and in which all professions are interested. The neat produce of the cultivation of the earth is the only source of the prosperity of a farming state: to know exactly what an acre of land well cultivated will produce, in different kinds of merchandise, according to the difference of the Soils, is the fundamental problem of Agriculture, Commerce, and Finances.

If the Farmer doth not gain all his expences, and wherewith to satisfy all charges, the earth will remain untilld, as more than the moiety in this Province doth; the starving proprietor will be forced to sustain losses and bankruptcies; the Farmer ruined, badly cloathed, and badly fed, will sell his little property; he will take up, with his indigent family, the art of begging, too common, and which is a disgrace to the Nation; the State itself will suffer; the Taxes will not be collected but with extreme difficulty, and with the greatest rigor; and it must be acknowledged that this hath been the state of the Kingdom of *France* for more than an age. In every

Pro-

Province the earth shews, in an infinity of places, the marks and vestiges of a deserted cultivation : houses unroofed proclaim a desertion and depopulation : the Cities and even the Capital are peopled with Poor ; whilst those who have ruined so many families, and enriched themselves with their spoils, make parade of a luxury which is an insult on public misery.

There is, moreover, another principle which manifestly proves the price of Corn in *France* is too low, and that the Farmers are far from being in a happy situation.

The price of Corn ought to be in proportion to the value of every merchandise and every kind of labour ; which, after deducting the value of the material, ought to cost more or less, according to what is paid per Day to the workman.

It is manifest, that, for about an age past, the price of labour and merchandise are considerably raised in *France*. There is none that for fifty years past hath not experienced this.

The price of Corn, which is the measure of the whole, should then have risen in proportion ; in the mean time, it hath not only not increased, but it is a certain fact, that it hath fallen considerably, and that it would require, an age ago, a greater weight of Silver to pay for a Setier than it doth at present.

In 1649, the Deputy of Mr. —, the Procureur Général at the Chatelet, said, in his requisition of the 6th of *March* to the Police, as a known fact, that

Wheat

Wheat was at 15 livres the Setier, a moderate price (these are his words); but, the same Setier hath this present year, 1764, been in *Paris* at 14 livres, and 14 livres 10 sous. It was of less value in the neighbouring Cantons, and of necessity in the Country.

It appears, by the account of prices kept at *Paris*, that it was worth 18 livres 18 sous in 1649; 26 livres 10 sous, 5 deniers, in 1650; 25 livres 13 sous in 1651; and 24 livres 18 sous in 1652;—then the price of Wheat hath diminished very much since 1649, that is, within 115 years; and it cannot be denied, that other workmanship and merchandise, wages, &c. have greatly increased.

What shall we think, Gentlemen, of so great a difference, when we reflect, that the *mark* of silver was, in 1649, at 28 livres, 13 sous, 8 deniers; that is to say, at almost half less than at this day, *viz.* (from 1726) at 54 livres 6 sous?

The value of the Setier of Wheat (in money at present in use) was, during these five years, on the average price, at 42 livres 2 sous. These prices are calculated in *The Essay on Moneys*, and in the treatise *Of the Police of Corn*. Ought one to be surprized, after these examples, that his Majesty hath fixed the limits of the exportation at 30 livres the Setier, weighing 240 pounds?

It is then proved true to a demonstration, that Corn is in *France* at too low a price, in proportion to the advances, to the charges and expences of the Farmer, in proportion to other works and merchandise,

dise, and consequently to both public and private expences.

But, to enable the Grower to receive back his charges and expences, that he may support and pay all taxes, it is not sufficient even that Corn should be of a certain value; it is necessary that value should be regular, the least subject as possible to variations. If he is not certain of selling, and of selling every year for profit, this uncertainty deprives him of all security, and he loses the courage to till.

Now, this was impossible under a System of prohibitions, under a System of temporary and particular permissions, often granted from interest to importunity, scarcely ever free from suspicions.

A state, whose Agriculture is under the direction of prohibitive Laws, can never cultivate but for its own necessary use; it can never, by good, make compensation for bad, years; for, such a State is poor when it hath a superfluity of Grain; and it is poor when it hath too little: the superabundance produceth stagnation; and the failure produceth want: one brings with it a vile price; and the other excessive dearth.

These variations, the alternative of liberty and prohibitions, left the Farmer in fear, and could not fail to discourage him, because he was obliged to sell at any price whatsoever to satisfy his annual advance. There is nothing but the constant keeping the ports open, and a free exportation of Grain, that can remedy these inconveniences. In time of great plenty
that

that freedom will support cultivation, because the certainty of sales, either within the Kingdom or to foreigners, will make both the Landlord and Farmer contentedly to see their riches lie idle in their Magazines. This confidence will make them easy, and prevent, in unfruitful years, the terrors of want, which often causes real want. The disadvantage of expences in bad years will be made up by advantageous sales in those which are good. The poor will find himself comforted by the abundant consumption of the rich, and by the circulation. He cannot live, if the rich doth not furnish him with the means of subsistence; and the latter cannot furnish the former therewith, if he doth not draw from the earth sufficient to pay those recompences and wages which are the reward of labour.

But that which ought to remove entirely all his fears of want, is that constant uniformity of the price of Corn which exportation will necessarily produce. The principal end of a free exportation is not so much to sell as to support the merchandise at the best price possible, to restore that equilibrium which is supported naturally in the commerce of other merchandise.

The common price of Wheat through EUROPE varies but little; it is notorious, that it is never below eighteen livres the Setier * (that is twenty-four, the

* By the *Setier*, in this place, is to be understood the measure, not that of 240 lb. mentioned before, page 242; for, that

the Charge of RENNES), and that it scarcely ever rises above twenty-two; therefore the average price is twenty livres †.

For an age past *France* hath not, as before that time, had any share in the general market-price of *Europe*, which is the highest price possible; and it is a notorious fact, that the value of Corn in *France* has almost always been, since the prohibitions, below the general market-price. By what fatality should we obstinately persist in keeping our merchandize below the current price between Nations, to lose continually by all we buy of, and all we sell to, Foreigners? We, in 1748, 1749, and 1750, felt this by sorrowful experience. From the time we unfor-

that is the weight of the Setier of the best Wheat, and much exceeds the Average; the weight of the Setier from 1418 to 1700 played between 205 lb. and 244 lb. See *Essai sur les Monnoies*. folio 49.

† Equal to 33s. 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$ the London quarter. Now it appears, page 122, that the average price of Wheat for the last 79 years hath been 33s. 2d. $\frac{1}{2}$ at *Windsor*, that is 4d. below the general market of *Europe*, whereas before for 91 Years it was 38s. 0d. $\frac{1}{2}$, that is 4s. 6d. above the said general price. And that these *Windsor* prices are more to be depended on than could at first be known, is proved not only by the said average price of *Europe*, but also by the average price at *London* from 1740 to 1764, being found on enquiry to have been only six pence per Quarter less—and by the average of all the Wheat bought at the Victualling Offices at *London*, *Dover*, *Portsmouth*, and *Plymouth*, for the last 20 years, ending Feb. 18th, 1765, as appears by an account laid before Parliament, being only 32s. 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$! that is 10d. above the *Windsor* price for the same time; and this last sum will amount to about 2d. $\frac{1}{2}$ discount on the Bills. but we cannot well call it less than 5 per Cent. and then it will be found to been six pence below the *Windsor*, and to agree with the *London*, price.

tunately

fortunately forbid the Exportation, our neighbours had encouraged and rewarded the exportation of Corn. They tilled with emulation, their fields were covered with harvests; and, in those years of want, we, who formerly used to sell them Wheat, were obliged to pay them the tribute of that encouragement which they gave their fellow-citizens. In those three years the *English* received from *France* 10,465,000 Livres.

The consequences of this bad administration are, first, that *France* dare not cultivate more than her own wants require; and, not being able ever to elevate her views above what is barely necessary, she must infallibly often fall below, and consequently remain exposed to all the accidents of bad seasons and short Crops.

Secondly, that she can never make her Corn an object of Commerce.

Thirdly, that she generally loses, although she may sometimes gain.

In short, that her Agriculture must continually remain in a declining state, whilst that of her neighbours becomes daily more flourishing.

France, if well cultivated, can never dread the superiority of other Nations in any thing; and she would have been but too happy, if by prohibitive regulations she had not herself shut the door against the labour and industry of her own inhabitants. The time will come possibly, when every Nation reduced to the exportation of its own growth, will

be of value only in proportion to its extent, the fertility of its soil, and its situation. *France*, in all these respects, hath the greatest advantages: She produceth Corn equal to the most fertile Countries; frequently for a year and half, sometimes for two years, and yet is always in fear of want. There is no cause to fear that in scarce years, which is the same as to say dear years; Corn should be exported for sale in places where it is in plenty, and at a lower price; there is no foundation for such fear only in the case when all *Europe* shall be afflicted with want. The facility of a free trade is a remedy as well for *Scarcity*, as for the *too great plenty* of merchandise, which is naturally carried where it is most wanted.

The Liberty of exportation is about to remove those barriers that laid a restraint which attacks the foundations of Society. The people will be no longer forbid to enjoy the fruits of their labour, Corn will no longer in *France* be a merchandise prohibited or contraband. We may give ourselves up to the flattering hopes of seeing plenty revive, and, by a necessary consequence, a flourishing trade, which always follows plenty of Merchandise.

Is it necessary to say more, Gentlemen, to establish confidence and tranquillity? when we are furnished with true principles, we need never fear but we shall draw just conclusions.—

Objects of so great an extent, which tend to increase the revenues of the King and the Nation, are not confined, as appears, to furnishing Bread for the

the markets; that supply, although essential, is only one branch of national œconomy, of which the Corn-trade is the agent and general spring; in as much as it impresses the motion of buying and selling on all the rest; nevertheless, as this is one of the most important points of the legislation, and that which strikes most forcibly on the minds of the people, it is right to make them easy in regard thereto, and to prevent their fears. There ought to be a constant proportion between the price of Corn and that of Bread; there are several cities in this province where there is not, at least where it is not either enough known, or exactly observed*.

A public regulation, or table, is wanting, which should express what the value of Bread ought to be in proportion to that of the Setier of Corn; and I am preparing to lay such a Table before you.

It remains to speak to you, Gentlemen, of the restrictions laid by the Edict on the free exportation. We could have wished, that the Liberty had been entire and indefinite in all the Ports, that there were no limitation to restrain that liberty, that the exportation were exempt from all duties; because freedom only can extend and support the sale of any merchandise, and promote the consumption, seeing that the least obstruction stops the course; because the least duty on buying or selling (for they are both the same) is an imposition which dries up the source;

* Some lines relating to this matter are here, and in the following page, omitted, as being only local.

cause, is fine, the augmentation of the expences of transportation causeth the Nation to lose considerable revenues, and necessarily destroys its competition with other Nations.

But I do not mean to consider those restrictions, nor yet those duties contained in the Edict, as matters of revenue; the Edict bears too much the marks of the king's beneficence and love for his people. Convinced of the truth of those principles, which are there established with such force and dignity, he hath paid some attention to popular fears, which, though with little foundation, are natural to indigence. He perhaps thought prejudices, which had taken root by long use, ought rather to be destroyed by experience than authority.

It is then concurring with those views to make representations to him in this respect, which are for the good of the State.

To remove all uneasiness from those who are not as yet fully convinced of the advantages which such a freedom of trade must produce, his Majesty hath thought proper to fix a price, above which all exportation out of the Kingdom shall be prohibited.

It is fixed at 12 livres 10 sous the quintal, by the sixth Article of the Edict; and it is there ordered, that, when that price shall be kept up in the same place for three following market-days, the liberty shall remain suspended in such place, and, to restore it, application must be made to the Minister of the Finances. There is no inconvenience in fixing 12

R

livres

livres ten fous, as we have seen by the average price of Corn in the general market of *Europe*; but have we not reason to fear, that some covetous persons may, by some private practices, raise the price of Corn for a few days, to the end that the Port may be shut, and they take advantage of the fall in the price, which will necessarily follow the prohibition? It would appear then right, to prevent monopoly, that the export being absolutely prohibited when the price shall be kept up at 30 livres the setier, or, that which is the same thing, at 12 livres 10 fous the quintal during three following Markets, it should be also restored absolutely, when during three Markets the price of the setier shall be below.

It appears, that, in limiting the number of ports, a view was had to the advantage of having regular accounts of the importation and exportation: But give me leave to remark, on the other hand, that this regulation confines the good intentions of his Majesty, and is even contrary to the Spirit of the Edict; for, the principles which are there established are true throughout, or not at all. To fix a certain number of ports is to favour a small part of the subjects at the expence of the rest, and to prejudice the greatest part. It would appear more natural, that exportation should be permitted without distinction from all ports, at least from all those where there are Commissaries capable to keep a register of exports and imports. We may venture to affirm, moreover, that the number of twenty-seven
ports

ports throughout all *France* is too inconsiderable, that six ports for *Britany* are not sufficient; the fourth Article hath fixed eight for *Normandy*, whose coasts are not so extensive.

From *St. Malo's* * to *Morlaix* there are forty or fifty leagues of Coast, where no ports are appointed, in which are comprehended the Bishoprics of *St. Malo*, *St. Brieux*, and *Treguier*, countries which are as fruitful in Corn as any other part of the Province. There we find the ports of *Leguay*, or *St. Brieux*, *Binic*, *Pontrieux*, *Treguier*, and *Lannion*. From *Morlaix* to *Brest*, eighteen or twenty leagues of Coast, in which no port is mentioned. From *Brest* to *Port Louis*, twenty-five or thirty leagues of Coast, where might have been mentioned *Audierne*, *Quimper*, *Pont l'Abbé*, *Pont d'Avoine*, *Concarneau*, &c. whence much Grain is brought. Also *Hennionde* and *Auray* between *Port Louis* and *Vannes*; *Croisic*, *Rebon*, &c. between *Vannes* and *Nantes*. All these places are fruitful in Corn; and, if there is no other view but to have entries, there are in all these Ports, even the smallest, Commissaries of the Ports and Harbours, Commissaries on duty, or Controulers, who may take the entries and duties, and keep a register of the importations and exportations.

If it is said, that from these Ports the Merchant may transport to those which are mentioned; be-

* Such readers as are acquainted with the coast of *France* will best understand the force of what is here advanced.

sides that it is a considerable increase of charges, the risk of the vessels, and of necessity a diminution of the value of the merchandise, it will be a subject of chicanery and disputes on the part of the Commissaries, in regard to the quantity of Corn, Grain, &c. for the discharge of the security, and consequently an embarrassment to the trade. Ought it to be necessary, for example, from *Paimbœuf*, which is at the mouth of the *Loire*, to go up that river as far as *Nantes*, to make an entry? or will the Commissary at *Nantes* be contented with that which shall have been made at *Paimbœuf*?

I add, that a liberty to go from every port would favour the *French* navigation, which is one of the objects which his Majesty had in view; for, thence would arise an increase of navigation from place to place, and port to port; it is well known, that the coasting trade is the school in which the best mariners are bred.

It is true, that, in order to encourage this navigation, the Edict secures to *French* vessels and mariners exclusively of all others the transportation of Grain: But to make a profit of this privilege we have perhaps neither vessels nor sailors enough. No one is ignorant that the price of freight in *France* is more considerable than with many other Nations; it is therefore thought, it would be proper to beseech his Majesty to give permission to make use of all vessels without distinction, at least for two or three years.

As

As to the duties which are established by the seventh Article of the Edict, although they have no other view than to obtain an exact account of the Corn which shall be brought into the Kingdom, and that shall be carried out, the difference of one per Cent. in the Duty of entry upon Wheat, and of three per Cent. on Rye, and other inferior Grain, may appear extraordinary, inasmuch as in short years, when only importation can take place, this difference would turn to the disadvantage of the poor, who for the most part live *only* on Rye. In short, the emolument which can arise from all these duties is so inconsiderable for the finances of his Majesty, and the damage which ariseth to his subjects is so great, by the immense diminution of the whole price of the Corn of the Kingdom, that we are persuaded his Majesty would be pleased to suppress them, or, at least, moderate them, and order that they shall not be ever increased upon any pretence whatsoever.

I thought, Gentlemen, these representations necessary: they have no other end but to accomplish the views of his Majesty, and those tend only to favour our competition with other Nations in the Corn-trade: But we ought not to flatter ourselves to succeed soon, while the duties, though moderate, the fetters with which we bind trade, and the scantiness of tillage, shall continue to discourage, and our neighbours shall give encouragement to export.

So far Mr. *Chaletais*; what he says * of the general Average price of Wheat throughout EUROPE appears to be founded on fact; and his observation †, that, except in case of general want, throughout all EUROPE, there is no danger of too large a quantity of Corn being exported, when at a high price, is very just; it can happen in that case only, and scarcely then; for, as it must be supposed that every place will feel in some measure the general want, and Corn cannot be very cheap any where, every nation will at such times be too much on its guard to be drained of the Corn necessary for the subsistence of the people; and the very orders which will be received, as they will chiefly be commissions for *supply*, and consequently without limitation of price, will directly raise the market, and immediately give the alarm: however, it is a very proper argument to quiet the minds of the people. And the Author of *Reflexions sur la Police des Grains en France, et en Angleterre* ‡, in order to convince them that so much Corn cannot be exported from *France* as to be hurtful, whilst other nations have so much to spare, gives § the annual average of the exports from *Europe* as follows,

* Page 244.

† Page 247.

‡ At *Paris*, 1764.

§ Page 49.

Viz.

Setiers.

England for 25 years average	—	* 1,020,000
Poland, Dantzick, the North and Holland		7,350,000
Sicily, Barbary, and Archipelago	—	1,630,000

 Total 10,000,000

That is, about 5,417,000 Quarters, *London* measure; and if the growth of *France*, as he says †, exclusive of the seed, which the *French* Authors set at about one sixth thereof, is 35,000,000 of Setiers, or 18,958,333 *London* Quarters, besides seed; what reason can the *French* have to fear that too great a quantity will be exported by *them*, when the exports of all *Europe* do not amount to one third of their own growth? and as our growth, besides seed, ‡ appears to be two-thirds of theirs, our fears seem much worse founded, at least in common cases, and when the want is not general throughout all *Europe* §; since the number of our people in *England* is never estimated at half the number of those in *France*.

* That is, 552,500 Quarters: this exceeds the general Average, and falls short of that of the last 39 years: But it is near enough for general argument.

Average of the last 39 years	—	Qrs. 598,448
General Average	—	487,411

See before, page 131.

† Page 48.

‡ Page 164.

§ See page 254.

CHAPTER VIII.

REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE FORE-
GOING COLLECTION.

THE Author of the foregoing collection thinks himself bound to acknowledge the many obligations he is under for the several remarks and observations he hath received relative thereto. The most material of which came after this Edition was near printed off, and consequently too late to be noted therein. The purport of them is, *viz.*

1. That the calculations are different in different parts thereof: let the reader please to esteem the papers as distinct works, written at different times, and take which he likes best.

2. That, supposing certain OTHER general principles, OTHER conclusions may be drawn: the principles here urged from are founded on Facts, which seem well established, therefore they are not affected by OTHERS.

3. That many of the Arguments will not hold good in *all* places: these are meant only as *general* arguments for the whole Kingdom.

That

That the hint thrown out, * *that some are of opinion, that if Oats were to be charged 5s. 10d. till 18s.* is wrong, and no good reason appears why they should not be imported at the present low duty; as the practice is of very great benefit in places where poor people consume Oats in Bread. And there seems much more need to give some *public* encouragement for the increasing the Growth of Oats at home, by a Bounty on that Grain when exported, or by a premium for the cultivation of waste or heathy lands in Oats, than to alter the old salutary practice.

Farther, it will be found, when examined into, that, though Wheat and Barley bear a much higher price in proportion than Oats just now, yet this last article has been advancing more steadily for a number of years last past; and the Growth seems more and more unequal to the Consumption; and, if the Legislature doth not give some encouragement to this Grain, it seems probable, there must be an Importation of it in some parts of the Kingdom or other every year.

5. That the arguments for continuing the same Bounties, and payable to the same prices, are not to be withstood: how then comes it that it is said, †
 “that, without any great risk, we might either continue the same Bounties, but payable to less prices,
 “say Wheat to 40s. and the rest in proportion; or
 “reduce them, say one third, and continue to pay

* Page 57.

† Page 104.

“ them to the same prices as at present ;” for, though experience teaches us, that but a small Quantity of Wheat is ever exported when it exceeds 40s. even with the Bounty, and without it there would most probably be none, so that it might have no great influence on the Market ; yet it never can be urged as a sufficient reason for making an alteration in this respect, *merely* because no hurt can ensue ; it cannot be supposed *any* Legislators will pass an Act but with a manifest view of doing good, and not when the effects may or can be only nugatory, and can do harm.

6. That the making a comparison of the prices of Corn since with those before the Bounty * is going too far back ; we should not go farther than forty years back, as there is a necessity that the manufacturer should always have bread cheap, in order to enable him to underwork other nations, and because within forty years he hath been loaded with many *new* taxes.

The matter under consideration is to enquire, *if the Bounty hath done any good* : now, how can this be known, but by comparing the prices of Corn before and after it took place ?

As to the necessity that the manufacturer should always have bread cheap to enable him to underwork other nations, and because within forty years he hath been loaded with many *new* taxes ; it is notorious that the Farmer and Landowner bear a full propor-

tion of those *very* taxes, which were imposed, not to promote and protect Agriculture, so far as it regards the Growth of Corn at least, but to promote and protect the Sale of our Manufactures abroad: in order to obtain which, no reasonable Expences ought to be spared.

And yet Wheat, when the prices thereof are compared either with those of other nations, or with what our Forefathers gave for it in the last century, although money was then as dear again, will be found to have been cheap during that period.

What is there but Corn, and the labour of the manufacturer thereof, if the labourers in the field may be so called, that hath not considerably risen in value within forty-years? have the wages of the husbandman been raised in proportion with those given to other workmen? he cannot with the labour of four days support himself and family a week.

Is it any reason, because *all* other things are grown dearer, that Corn, which *only* hath continued moderate, should be farther reduced?

Perhaps it may not be possible to grow Corn much cheaper than it was on the average from 1726 to 1765, and yet there seems no doubt that, if it can be done, it must be effected by continuing to give all proper encouragement to tillage, and promoting a due circulation in the Corn-trade: At least we may be assured that, with years of common plenty, under such regulations, it will not be dearer, and be one great means of supporting the necessary expences of
the

the nation, and without encreasing, at least in any great degree, the salary of the husbandman.

7. That the stating the average of all the years * is wrong: the dear years should have been left out; and then it would not appear that Wheat hath been so much cheaper on the average since the Bounty took place.

This deserves a particular answer.

It must be acknowledged, that, had these averages been struck with a view to point out, that the price of Wheat hath been so low that the plow is forsaken, and the country left desolate, as in *France*, the dear prices should have been left out here, as the French Authors have done with great propriety †; for, the Farmers reap very little, or rather no advantage from such dear years, as the shortness of the Crop does generally more than counterbalance the advance of price.

But the people pay those high prices although foreigners only gain thereby, and not the Farmer; and it is not what the Farmers gain, but what the people pay is the matter under consideration; and that, before the Bounty, they paid more than they have done since, is an undoubted Fact; and yet our Farmers are far from those distressed circumstances as the *French* Farmers are said to be in, although they received on the average 19 *livres* a *Setier*, i. e. about

* Page 122.

† See *Essai sur la Police Générale des Grains*, at *Berlin*, 1755, Page 243, &c.

31s. 10d. a *London* quarter, from 1725 to 1745*; whereas our own Farmers received, during the same time, only 29s. 10d.

Therefore the striking those years out by the *French* authors is right, and the leaving them in here is not wrong; and let it be noted, how often such dear years came round before the Bounty, to what they have done since, and to what height the prices sometimes rose.

The *French* find their Farmers cannot live by the present prices, and argue for an export to raise them: We find our Farmers thrive at the present prices; although lower than with them, and finding that they have fallen since the export took place, therefore we argue for the continuation thereof, as not only the most likely but also the most certain means to keep them down; for, it is inconsistent to think, that those who live in an exporting Country should pay more for their Corn than those who live in an importing Country; was any ever known to buy at a high price to sell at a lower?

8. That the value of the gains and savings which have been made by the export are much under valued, § particularly, that there hath been Corn to the Value of 100,000 l. or 120,000 l. every year since the UNION, carried to SCOTLAND, where it was prohibited before; which should be added to the account; as should also the Oats and Pease exported on foreign Vessels to the account of Growth; but the accounts of these exports were never made up.

* See Police des Grains, 255.

§ Page 149.

That the number of people, the quantity used for seed*, and the quantities of Peas and Beans, are much under-rated: and consequently, by not bringing them into the account†, that the annual Growth is estimated much too low. Therefore the Export hath not borne so high a proportion to the Growth as is calculated, and this confirms that it bears but a very little proportion to a *small* failure in the Crop‡.

10. That many people in *Wales* eat Oat-bread, whereas it is supposed§ there is none eaten there; whether they eat Oat-bread, or that made of any other Grain, is immaterial; the *whole* Growth will be nearly the same.

11. That estimating the whole number of Horses¶ eight-fold, those in *London*, is rating them too high; and that supposing|| two quarters of Oats to make one quarter of Oatmeal is wrong, it will take two quarters three bushels; *therefore* the Oats used for Meal is much under-rated; let this balance the error in regard to Horses.

12. That it is manifest from experience, that the old Laws against Engrossers**, &c. do not answer the ends for which they were made, are not suitable

* That one ninth for *England* would be nearer, for that in some parts a sixth is used; and, if the proportion was to be reckoned for *Scotland*, one fifth of the Growth will be found upon an *average* of the different Grains and years to be under the quantity that is used for seed, Wheat included.

† Page 164.

‡ Page 28.

§ Page 179.

¶ Page 225.

|| Page 147.

** See Page 57.

to the present times, tend to discourage tillage by preventing a freedom in the Corn-trade, and, whenever they are put in force, which they at any time may when Wheat exceeds 48s. always make the price of Grain higher than it would otherwise be, by stopping the circulation thereof; and not only cause, but also make more grievous, the evil they were calculated to prevent. That therefore there seems an absolute necessity to repeal them, and to pass "An Act to encourage Tillage and lower the price of Corn, by regulating the Corn-trade in this Kingdom, encouraging the transportation thereof from place to place within the Kingdom, and particularly from the growing to the manufacturing Counties, securing of the property and protecting of the persons of those who shall lawfully deal therein, or in any branch of the said trade, and punishing such as shall be guilty of any mal-practices in carrying on the same."

13. That since the Bounty hath had such an effect as to cause Wheat to be so much cheaper, that it "is become much more generally the food of the common people since 1689 than it was before that time *," and it costs Sixpence a week more to feed a poor man with Wheat than Rye †, it is insisted, that it is not only unnecessary but also unreasonable to continue to pay it as high as 48s. and it ought either to be paid to a less price, or entirely

* See Page 204.

† See Page 216.

taken off, in order to keep Wheat within reach of the poor; That is, as the giving the Bounty on Wheat hath made it cheaper than it used to be, so the forbearing to give it will make it cheaper still.

Thus have we, to the best of our abilities, fairly stated the purport of every material *Remark* and *Observation*, both for and against the foregoing *Collection*, which have either been communicated or occurred to us; and which it appeared necessary to lay before the *Public*, as the affair of *Corn* cannot be too well understood, or too maturely and dispassionately considered under every view, whether it regards the growth and internal circulation, or the exportation and importation thereof, or the part we bear in the Trade thereof in *Europe*.

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R E P O R T
FROM THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS,

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER OF

The Methods practised in making FLOUR from
WHEAT;

The PRICES thereof;

And how far it may be expedient to put the same
again under the Regulations of an ASSIZE.

FIRST PRINTED IN THE YEAR M DCC LXXIV.

R E P O R T

COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY RAILWAY
AND THE WREATH

THE RAILWAY

And how far it may be
again improved

THE RAILWAY

Year of the

Commissioner

That

They

made

When

R E P O R T, &c.

The Committee, appointed to consider of the Methods practised in making Flour from Wheat, the Prices thereof, and how far it may be expedient to put the same again under the Regulations of an Assize, and to report the same, with their Opinions thereupon, to the House, in Obedience to the Order of the House, met on *Friday* the Third of this Month.

THEY first examined the Statute, intituled, "*Assisa Panis et Cervisia*," made in the Fifty-first Year of the Reign of *Henry* the Third; also the Ordinance for Bakers, made in the Times of *Henry* the Third, *Edward* the First, or *Edward* the Second. They did also examine the Allowances heretofore made to the Bakers, according to the Price of the Wheat, by the Assize of the Fifty-first of *Henry* the

Third; by that in the Time of *Edward* the First; by that made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of *Henry* the Seventh; by that made in the Thirty-fourth Year of the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*; and, lastly, by the Book of Affize, published by Order of Council in the Year 1638, in which, for the first Time, the Affize was calculated by the Pound Avoirdupois and its Parts, as well as by the Pound Troy.

And Your Committee do find, That the Charge of grinding and dressing the Wheat into Meal and Flour was always included within the Affize, while the Affize of Bread was set according to the Price of the Wheat.

They next examined the Statute, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Price and Affize of Bread," made in the Eighth Year of the Reign of *Queen Anne*; and they find therein, that the Magistrates and others, authorized to set an Affize on Bread, were directed by Law, for the first Time, in so setting the Affize, to have respect to the Price of the Meal and Flour as well as to that of the Grain. Although the Affize of the Bread, as set in the Affize-Table, is calculated by a Price of the Bushel of Wheat; yet that supposed Price of the Bushel of Wheat is a compounded Price, as collected by having respect to the Meal or Flour, as well as to the Grain, together with the Baker's Allowance added thereto. From the Time that the Affize of the Bread was set with respect to the Flour, the Miller and Mealman were no longer included within the Charges whereon the

Affiz

Affize of Bread was calculated; they were thenceforth at Liberty to make what sorts of Flour they should please, and to affix thereunto what Price they thought proper: whereas, while the Affize had respect to the Grain only, as from Time immemorial it always had, the Charges of grinding and dressing were included in the Calculation of the several Operations of the making of Bread from the Grain; and those Articles do accordingly stand in the said Calculations.

They find, from the Journals of the House, That, at the Time of making this Alteration, there were Petitions presented to the House, by the Bakers of *London*, by those of most of the great Towns and Cities, and almost from every Part of *England*; setting forth, That the setting the Affize in this Manner must be either impracticable, or a great Oppression to the Baker.—Several Inconveniences did arise in Practice, and Your Committee find, That on the Second Day of *March*, in the Year 1735, the Master and Wardens of the Company of Bakers in the City of *London*, in Behalf of themselves and the rest of the Bakers within the Bills of Mortality, did present a petition to the House; in which they set forth and allege, That the prices of the Wheat, whence the Magistrate did set the Affize, and the prices of the Flour which the Baker did use for the making the several sorts of Bread by the Law directed, did not agree; and that the allowance which the Affize made them was not proportioned to their

Charges, and the cost of the materials whereof their bread was made.

And Your Committee find, on the 12th day of the said month, That the Committee, who were appointed to consider of the said Petition, did report, " That " the Petitioners had fully proved the Allegations of " their Petition; and that the most certain and most " equal Method of ~~regulating~~ ^{ascertaining} the Price and Affize " of Bread within the Bills of Mortality, with Justice " to the Public as well as to the Bakers, will be, to " fix the same from the Price of such Flour whereof " each Sort of Bread is made, making a reasonable " Allowance to the Bakers for every Bushel of Flour, " proportionable to the ancient and customary Allowance for every Bushel of Wheat." This Resolution was agreed to by the House, and a Bill was ordered to be brought in " for the better regulating " and ascertaining the Price and Affize of Bread in " the City of London, and Parts adjacent." A Bill was, according to the Order, brought in; but we do not find that the House did proceed therein.

Here Your Committee beg Leave to observe, That although the Remedy, proposed by the Resolution of that Committee, might have relieved the Case of the Baker; yet, while the Miller or Mealman was thus left at Liberty to make what Divisions and Assortments of Flour he should please, and to affix thereunto what Price should to him, from Reasons of his own, seem meet, the Poor were still liable to be aggrieved by a high Price or Affize of Bread, although

though the Wheat was cheap; because, if the Miller or Mealman should affix a high Price upon his Flour, disproportionate to the Price of Wheat, and the Magistrate should, in the setting the Assize, be confined to look to the Price of the Flour only, as the Resolution proposed, the Bread might be rated at a high Price, although the Wheat did not require such.

Your Committee next inquired what the Law, intituled, "An Act for the due making of Bread, and to regulate the Price and Assize thereof, and to punish Persons who shall adulterate Meal Flour or Bread," passed in the Thirty-first Year of the Reign of *George* the Second, did intend. This Law, they find, supposes, that the Whole Flour of the Wheat is so divided into Two Sorts as that a Wheaten Bread, and an Household Bread only, should be made for common Sale; that the Wheaten Loaves were always to be Three Fourths of the Weight of the Household Loaves of the same Price; and that the Household-priced Loaves were always to be Three Fourths of the Price of the Wheaten Loaves of the same Size. This Wheaten Bread was supposed to be somewhat finer than the Wheaten intended by the Eighth of Queen *Anne*, but not so fine as the White Bread intended by that Act.—The Household, also, was thus meant to have been of a better and more nutritious Quality than that of Queen *Anne*; and the Bread was priced and assized accordingly as such. The Price was thus fixed on the Public;

Public; but the Act, as to the making the Bread intended, was never carried into Execution. We are not able to discover that the Flour was ever divided by the Miller or Mealman, as the Law supposed when it fixed the Assize; or that any such was ever in the Market, bearing such Proportions, either in its Quality or Price: on the contrary, the Mealman appears to have made it by what Divisions and of what Assortments he pleased, and to have affixed thereunto, without Respect had to any just Rule or Proportion, any Prices he pleased; so that, while the Baker (especially in *London* and the Parts adjacent) was obliged to make his Bread of such Sorts of Flour as he could purchase, or did afterwards himself mix the several Sorts as he found convenient, the Magistrate, however he might set the Assize, could not possibly know what that Bread was which he so assized or priced.

Your Committee were confirmed in their Opinion on this Head by inspecting and examining the Registers of the Prices of Wheat and Flour, as kept in the Books of the Meal-Weighers of the City of *London*, from *September 1759* (when the Act for regulating the Assize and Price of Bread first came into Operation) to *October 1773*. They directed their Enquiry in order to ascertain the Fact, whether there were, according to the Intent and Meaning of the said Act, in the Market, for common Use and Consumption, Two Sorts of Flour, suited to the making the Two Sorts of Bread only as intended

tended by the said Act should be made for Sale; and whether the Prices of such Flour (if any such there were) bore any fixed Proportion either to the Wheat, the Bread, or to each other, so as to suit the Prices and Affize fixed by that Act.

Your Committee examined *Joseph How*, who has been a Meal-Weigher from before that Period, and also *William Marshall*, who has been a Meal-Weigher for the last Seven Years, to the Mode of their collecting the Prices of the Wheat and of the Flour, to the Truth of these Registers, and also to the Sorts of Flour which are usually in the Market; and do find, That, as to the Price of the Wheat, they collect it from the Sellers' Market-Books, and check it by those of the Buyers, and return the Prices, with the Quantities sold, to the chief Magistrate; which Prices are those registered in the Books of their Office: That, as to the Flour, there were in the Year 1759, and have been ever since, Three Sorts always in the Market; *viz.* Firsts, Seconds, and Thirds; but that the Meal-Weighers never take Account of the Price or Sale of any other than the First Sort, which is improperly termed Household, being said to be intended for making the Wheaten Bread; and that this is generally returned and registered at One Price, notwithstanding the Price of the Wheat varies very considerably; and this finest Sort is what always has been, and is chiefly, sold in the Market for the general Consumption.

Your

Your Committee next examined Mr. *Parda Alley*, (a Mealman,) and it appeared, That of late they usually make up their Wheat to a Standard of 63 Pounds to a Bushel, by adding such a Quantity over and above the Measure of the Bushel as the Wheat in Measure is beneath that Weight; yet we find, that the Price of the Flour *per* Sack has varied from the Price of the Wheat *per* Quarter, through all Proportions, from One to Eleven Shillings difference.

Your Committee wishing to know whence this Variation did arise, and whether the Mealman did of late use a different Dressing or Assortment—they did not receive any Information on that Head. They were however afterwards informed by the Master of the Bakers Company, who is a Miller, that they now dress the Households through a Twenty-Shilling Cloth, and the Residue through a Sixteen-Shilling Cloth for Seconds; which Your Committee apprehend to be a coarser Dressing than should be for the Wheaten Bread intended by the Act, especially as it appears, from the Report of the Commissioners of the Victualing Office, dated *June 10, 1774*, hereunto annexed (B), and hereinafter more particularly referred to, That a Dressing through a One-and-Twenty Shilling Cloth, as therein described, is the proper Dressing for the Whole Flour, in order to produce the Flour duly suited to the Wheaten Bread. This Miller, the Master of the Bakers Company, farther informed your Committee, That he had, since the

passing

passing of the Bread-Act of last Session, dressed for the Bakers, as usual, Households, Seconds, and Thirds.

Mr. *Pardo Allet*, also of the Bakers Company, who is a Mealman, informed Your Committee, That he used the Wire Machine now applied to the Dressing of Flour, and that he dressed the Meal through the different Numbers, from No. 58 to No. 62, for Households, and the Residue for Middlings through the different Numbers, from No. 46 to No. 56. In order to explain the Nature of this Evidence, we beg Leave to refer to Three Letters inserted in the Appendix (E. 1, 2, 3), from Mr. *Miln* of *Manchester*, the Patentee-Maker of Wire Machines for dressing Flour, to Mr. *Pelham*, Secretary of the Victualing Office, dated *January the First, February the Second, and May the Fourth, 1774*: Also to the Manufacturers Memorandum of several Bolting Cloths which are most commonly used, described by their Denominations, and by the Number of Threads which are in the Warp, and in the Shoot or Woof, in an Inch Square; which is also inserted in the Appendix (F). Reference had to those will inform the House what the Sorts of Dressing are which the Evidence above describes, and will confirm (whatever Names the several Sorts of Flour at different Times be called by) the Evidence which we received from the Meal-Weighers, That the same Assortments of the Flour, viz. Households, Seconds, and Thirds, are now in

the Market as have been heretofore, but that the Sort, which is principally and in the main Quantity sold there, is the Households; which the Mode of Dressing above described provides for accordingly in the greatest Quantity.

Your Committee, in order to give the more certain Information to the House, as to the Variations of the Difference between the Prices of the Flour *per* Sack of Twenty-eight Pounds, and the Prices of the Wheat *per* Quarter, have extracted from the Meal-Weighers' Books, and stated, the relative Proportions of these Prices between the Flour and the Wheat of the same Time, as they were found to stand in different Periods, from September 1759 to October 1773; and they have annexed the same to this Report (D).

The Difference of Price between the Price of the Sack of Flour and the Price of the Quarter of Wheat, as they stood at the same Time, appears to have varied from *One Shilling to Eleven Shillings*. When it appears that the Miller and Mealman's Charges, for grinding and dressing, have been always at or nearly the same Rate *per* Quarter; and that the Household Flour has always been supposed to be of (or nearly so) the same Fineness, being intended for the same Sort of Bread; Your Committee are unable to account for these Deviations of Proportion by any just Rule of Charge and Profit.

Upon the Whole of this Point, Your Committee are not able to find that any such Division was ever made of the Whole Flour into Two Sorts only, so

as specially suited to make the Two Sorts of Bread only, namely, Wheaten and Household, as the Act of the Thirty-first of *George* the Second requires; nor that there were in the Market any Sorts, which, either in Proportion of Quality, Quantity, or Price, answered this intended Supply of such Two Sorts of Bread; nor that any Quantity of the Whole Flour of the Wheat, such as is directed by the "Act for the better regulating the Assize and the due making of Bread," the Standard Wheaten Bread should be made of, has been in the Market; nor can they find that Mr. *Jonathan Rogers*, Master of the Bakers Company, who is a Miller, and does not follow the Baking Trade, (although at the Commencement of the said Act the Company did, as he informed Your Committee, by Advertisement, recommend it to the Trade to comply with the Act, if they could get the Flour) did ever dress any Standard Wheaten Flour, except Two Sacks for a Trial, for Mr. *Wyat*, One of the Wardens of the Company; Nor that Mr. *Pardo Allet*, also a considerable Member of the said Bakers Company, who is, a Mealman, did ever dress more than Three Sacks, which he informed us he dressed for the Baker who took his Shop. On the contrary, Your Committee find, That the Mealmen go on to dress and price their Flour, without any Respect had to the Bread directed to be made either by the Act of the Thirty-first of *George* the Second, or to that of the Thirteenth of His present Majesty; by which Modes
much

much the greatest Portion of the Whole Flour is constantly thrown into that Assortment which is called Households, the Rest and Residue being Middlings only, such as is chiefly used for Biscuit Stuff, as Mr. *Pardo Allet* informed Your Committee; and which Households are prized at a Rate which Half only of the Whole Flour should have borne; while the small Residue is again divided into farther Assortments, still more remote from answering the Regulations of the Laws, as they direct the several Sorts of Bread to be made.

In order precisely to state this Matter to the House, Your Committee next examined the Reports of the Commissioners of the Victualing Office, made to the Commissioners of the Admiralty, and dated *May 30th, June 10th and 11th, 1774*, and which were referred to this Your Committee. These Reports state the Issue of sundry Experiments made by that Board, as to the Practicability and proper Mode of dressing the Flour of Wheat, conformable to what the Laws for the due making of Bread require, and as to the Produce of such Flour from Wheats of various Sorts.—The Facts are so clearly demonstrated by those Experiments, and the Accounts are so distinctly drawn up, that Your Committee cannot better point their Information to the House, than by directing it in a Reference to the Reports themselves (A, B, C).

Your Committee however beg Leave to observe, That the Proportion of the Average Quantity of the

Whole

Whole Flour in Weight, produced (when dressed through a Bolting-Cloth as therein described, or through a Wire Machine as therein also described) to the Average Weight of all Sorts together of Wheats, from 51 lb. per Bushel to 61 lb. per Bushel, is nearly Three-Fourth Parts of the Average Weight of the Bushel; that the Proportion of the Weight of the Flour to the Weight of the Wheat, in Wheats under 57 lb. per Bushel, is less than Three Fourths; but that, in Wheats above that Weight of 57 lb. per Bushel, the Proportion in Flour is Four Fifths and upwards.

Your Committee next examined *Henry Pelham*, Esquire, (Secretary to the Victualing Office,) as to the Truth and Exactness of the Accounts annexed to the said Report, and instituted on the Experiments made. He acquainted Your Committee, that he had examined the same, and that he found them right. He was then desired to give the Committee such Observations as he had made relative to the making of Flour and Bread; in Answer to which, he referred to sundry Experiments instituted by him, and made under his Direction, which are hereunto annexed (G). He also delivered in a Paper of Observations and States of Accounts on this Subject, as what would give to the Committee the best Information that he was able to lay before them; this was accordingly read, and is hereunto annexed (H).

Your Committee beg Leave to observe, from the Accounts stated and referred to in the said Reports

T

and

and Papers, That although the Baker cannot afford to make, and has therefore never made, the real Wheaten and Household Bread, as intended to be made by the Act of the 31st of *George* the Second, while he is obliged to buy his Flour of the Mealman, under the Assortment and at the Prices which the Trade in general make and charge; nor the Standard Wheaten Bread as intended by the Act of the 13th of His present Majesty: yet that, if the Baker either buys his own Wheat, or that the Grinding and Dressing are such, and the Price so charged as those Acts suppose (which with full and ample Allowance to the Miller, Mealman, and Baker, they can be), the Baker is very fully enabled to make such several Sorts of Bread as the Law requires, and to sell them at such Price as the Law directs, with a considerable Profit over and above the Allowance which the Law and the Magistrate make him, according to the present Setting of the Assize on Bread.—Secondly, That while the Mealman can obtain £ 1 4s. 8d. on the Grinding and Dressing of a Load or Five Quarters of Wheat, according to the general present Mode of the Trade, he will never dress or price his Flour otherwise: While the Baker, buying his Flour of those Assortments, and at those Prices, is to lose, on the Household Bread of the 31st of *George* the Second, Twenty Shillings and One Penny of the due Profit which he ought to have on Sixty-Peck Loaves of the same; and while in like Manner (if he is to buy his Flour as before) he is to

lose,

lofe, on the Standard Wheaten Bread of the 13th of His prefent Majesty, One Pound and a Penny Farthing on One hundred and Twenty Peck Loaves; he never will or can make either the one or the other.

Thirdly, That until the Mealman is obliged to drefs the Flour into fuch Sorts as are fuitcd to the Sorts of Bread which the Law intends fhould be made; that is to fay, into the whole Flour, as it is defcribed in the Act for the better regulating the Affize, &c. paffed laft Seflions, for the Standard Wheaten Bread, or by fo dividing the Whole Flour into Two Sorts only as fhall be fuitcd to the Wheaten and Houfehold Bread, as directed by the Act of the 31ft of *George* the Second; and until fuch Whole Flour, and fuch Sorts of Flour, are fold at Prices proportioned to the Price of Wheat on one Hand, and to the Prices of the Bread on the other; all Regulations refpecting Bread muft be nugatory; all Affize on Bread impracticable, or otherwife oppreffive to the Farmer on one Hand, or to the Baker on the other; and, in the End, a Grievance to the poor Labourer, Mechanic, and Manufacturer.

Laftly, It appears to Your Committee, from the Reports of the Commiffioners of the Victualing-Office, that the Flour may eafily, and by lefs Labour than is ufed in the Modes ordinarily practifed, be fo divided; and that the Whole Flour may be made the Standard for the Regulations of an Affize of Flour, in Proportion to the Value of the
T. 2. Wheat;

Wheat; and that the Sorts arising from the Division of this Whole Flour into Two equal Moieties may be affixed in Proportion thereto, by setting the Price of the Household (that is to say, that Flour which is intended for the Household Bread) One Eighth less than the Standard Wheaten, and the Wheaten Flour One Eighth more than the Standard Wheaten, and the Household Flour One Fourth less than the Wheaten Flour; so as the Wheaten and Household Flour together shall make up the Price of the Standard Wheaten, or Whole Flour; which regulations will precisely suit the Proportions that the Law hath prescribed to the Assize of the several Sorts of Bread.

Your Committee next examined *Thomas Farrer*, Esquire, as to the Truth of sundry Experiments, and of Accounts instituted thereon, which had been communicated by him, respecting the Quantity of Flour, and of Bread, produced from different Sorts of Wheat; and he acquainted the Committee, That the Experiments had been made by his Direction, and under his own Inspection; and that the Accounts were right: These Experiments and Accounts are also annexed to this Report (I).

One of the Members of this Committee laid before your Committee a Narrative of the Proceedings respecting the carrying the Bread-Act of last Sessions into Execution in the County of *Devon*, and in the City of *Exeter*; also of sundry Experiments made at that Time by himself, with Two other Justices, and others, respecting the making of Flour and Bread, as more particularly relating to the Operation of the Provisions

Provisions of the said Act, with his Observations thereupon, which we have, for the farther and fuller Information of the House, annexed to this Report (K), and to which we beg Leave to refer.

Doctor *Charles Irwin* having been desired to analyse Flour and Bread taken from different Parts in *London*, in order to ascertain, as far as the same could be done, whether there were any Adulterations of the Flour, or any undue Mixtures, to be found in the common Bread of *London*, and what such were; as also what were the defects, as to him, from the Institution of his Experiments, should appear; he attended Your Committee, and delivered in an Account of the Process of such Experiments as he had made, and his Reasoning thereupon. As it appears to Your Committee, that it is of Consequence to the Public, not only that they should be apprised of any Defects which may appear, but also that any Prejudices as to the Existence of supposed Frauds, if such on Experiments should be found not to exist, should be removed, we have annexed this the Doctor's Account (L), and beg Leave to refer to it on this Head.

Finally, Your Committee came to the following Resolutions; *viz.*

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That until the Statute, intituled, "*Assisa Panis & Cervisie*," made in the Fifty-first Year of the Reign of *Henry the*

Third, was repealed, by an Act, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Price and Affize of Bread," passed in the Eighth Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, the Charge of the Grinding and Dressing the Corn into Meal and Flour was included in the Affize which was set upon Bread from the Price of Wheat.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That the setting any Affize on Bread, and the fixing a Rate upon the Labour, Pains, Livelihood, and Profit, of the Baker, so long as the Miller or Mealman is at Liberty to make what Sorts of Flour he shall please, and to affix thereunto what Prices he shall in like Manner please, for his Labour, Pains, Livelihood, and Profit, is either impracticable, or must be injurious to the Baker, or a great Burthen to the poor Labourer, Mechanic, and Manufacturer.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That the Evils arising from there being no Restraint, either with respect to the Sorts of Flour that are made, or to the Prices at which they are sold, may be remedied by setting such an Affize upon Flour as shall be found just and reasonable, with respect to the Average Market-Price of Wheat.

Resolved,

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That the Whole Flour of Wheat is in general, as it hath always proved to be, in Weight nearly Three-Fourth Parts of the Weight of the middling Grain.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That, according to the ancient Custom of the Land, every Twentieth Grain, or Five *per Centum* of the Weight of the Wheat, is full and sufficient Toll for the Miller's Labour, Pains, Livelihood, and Profit.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That every Miller, if the Law does not at present oblige him so to do, should, under certain Restrictions, be obliged to grind and dress all such Wheat as shall be brought to his Mill by any Person requiring the same.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That Forty-two Pounds Avoirdupois of the Whole Flour, when sold at the Mill, is equal in Value to the middling Price of a *Winchester* Bushel of middling Wheat at the same Time.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That the Magistrate, Magistrates, and others, who is and are by

the Laws now in being authorized and impowered to set the Affize and fix the Price on Bread, should be authorized and impowered in like Manner to set the Affize and fix the Price of Flour.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That when the Magistrates, who are by the Laws now in being authorized so to do, shall have prohibited any Bread purporting to be of a superior Quality, or sold at an higher Price than the Standard Wheaten Bread, from being made for Sale, they be impowered in like Manner to prohibit, if they think proper, any Flour purporting to be of a superior Quality, and sold at an higher Price than the Whole Flour of Wheat, from being made for Sale, or sold, except for the Purposes of making such small Bread as may then be allowed (by Licence under the Hand and Seal of such Magistrate) or for the Purposes of Pastry and Confectionary.

Resolved,

That it appears to this Committee, That the said Magistrates shall, in order to enforce the Regulations made respecting the Standard Wheaten Bread, be empowered to order, if they think proper, that no Miller or Mealman shall use, during the Continuance of such their Order, any Bolting-Cloth finer than herein described; that is to say, A Cloth Six Feet in Length, and Six Feet Seven Inches in Breadth

Breadth at the Head, and Six Feet broad at the Tail, composed of Woollen Yarn, and weighing One Pound when new, having Thirty-two Threads to the Inch in the Warp, and Twenty-eight Threads to an Inch in the Shoot, and what is at present known and commonly called a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth; nor any finer Wire Sieve, or Machine, than that which consists of Forty-two Wires to an Inch both Ways, and the Weight of Six Inches square of which is One Ounce and One Dram.

A P P E N D I X.

A.

VICTUALING OFFICE, 30th May, 1774.

SIR,

IN your Letter of the 8th of *March* last, you were pleased to transmit us a Letter from Mr. *Cooper*, one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, to the Right honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, inclosing a Memorandum from Governor *Pownall*, requesting that some Experiments might be made at this Office relating to the Dressing of Meal, and signifying the Desire of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, that Experiments might be made accordingly: And the Directions of the Right honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having been signified to us, by your said Letter, to cause Experiments to be made agree-

able

able to the Governor's Request, and to report to their Lordships the Result thereof;

We pray leave to acquaint you, for the Information of their Lordships, that the Governor's Request consists of the following Heads; viz.

1st, To ascertain, when the Whole Meal of Wheat is intended to be so dressed as that the *Whole Flour* may be separated from the Bran, or Hull, by whatever names they may be called, what that Bolting-Cloth is, which will best and nearest perform that Operation.

2^{dly}, To ascertain, when the said Whole Flour of the Wheat is intended to be so divided as that One Half only, containing the finest Parts, may be separated, leaving behind the other Half, containing the coarser Parts, what Bolting Cloth will best and nearest perform that Operation.

3^{dly}, That Two Wire Machines might be ordered to be made, which would perform the said Operations.

4^{thly}, That, in ascertaining the Bolting-Cloths, the Weight of them be marked, when new, either by the Yard square, or the Price of given Dimensions, and what Number of Threads are contained in an Inch square, both in Warp and Shoot.

5^{thly}, That the Wire, of which the Bolting-Machines shall be made, be described, and how many Wires there are both Ways, in an Inch square, as fixed and numbered by the Maker.

6^{thly},

6thly, That, in making the said Experiments of separating the Whole Flour from the Hull, the Enquiry be instituted on Wheats of all Weights separately, both of new and old Wheats, and upon such a Mixture jointly as might form an Average for the Whole, marking the Weight of the Wheat, the Waite in grinding and dressing, and the Weight of the Whole Flour; and the Weight of the Bran and the Hull, and the Weight of the Whole Flour, from a Bushel of Wheat of all the Sorts separately, and of the Whole jointly.

In order to comply therewith, we ordered Seven Parcels, of Five Quarters of Wheat each, of the Growth of the last Year, and of the following Weights, to be bought, *viz.*

Pounds.

Five Quarters of 52 *per* Bushel.

Five Quarters of 53 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 55 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 57 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 59 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 61 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 62 *per* Ditto.

In Pursuance of which, our Officers purchased Seven Parcels of Wheat, of Five Quarters each, of the Growth of the last Year, as near the above Weights as they could meet with, *viz.*

Pounds oz. dr.

Five Quarters of 51 14 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ *per* Bushel.

Five Quarters of 53 3 0 — *per* Ditto.

Five

Pounds oz. dr.

Five Quarters of 55 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Ditto.Five Quarters of 56 15 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Ditto.

Five Quarters of 59 0 8 — per Ditto.

Five Quarters of 60 10 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per Ditto.Five Quarters of 61 9 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Ditto.

And the Account (No. 1), enlosed, shews the Waste in grinding of each Parcel; also the Weight of the Flour of the Whole Wheat produced therefrom, dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Bolting-Cloth; also of the Bran, and how much the said Flour turns out from a Bushel of Wheat from each Parcel; also the Weight of Bran from Ditto; and how much the said Flour and Bran comes out from a Bushel of Wheat, upon an Average of the Seven Parcels. And we are to observe, that there doth not appear to us to be any Bolting-Cloth that will, at One Dressing, clear the Bran and Pollard so thoroughly from the Flour, but what some very small Portion of the finest Part of the Pollard will remain therein, unless the Bolting-Cloth be so fine as to give Room for a great deal of the Flour to pass off with the Bran. But we apprehend that a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth will, at One Dressing, clear the Meal from the Bran and Pollard so nearly as to produce what may be very well deemed the Whole Flour of the Wheat, or Standard Wheaten Flour.

Governor *Pownall* having, since his Memorandum before mentioned, signified his Desire that Experiments on Three, or Four Parcels of such Wheat as

is most common in Market for Bread, might be made through a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth, we made Enquiry concerning those Sorts, and ordered our Officers to buy, —

Pounds.

Five Quarters of Wheat of 58 *per* Bushel.

Five Quarters of Ditto of 59 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of Ditto of 60 *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of Ditto of 61 *per* Ditto.

and to cause Half the Meal that should be produced therefrom to be dressed through a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth, and the other Half through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth. In Pursuance of which they purchased the following Parcels, being as near the Weights directed as could be met with, *viz.*

Pounds oz. dr.

Five Quarters of 58 1 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ *per* Bushel.

Five Quarters of 58 15 14 $\frac{1}{8}$ *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 59 13 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ *per* Ditto.

Five Quarters of 60 0 0 — *per* Ditto.

And having dressed Half the Meal arising therefrom through a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth, and the other Half through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth, the Account enclosed (No. 2.) shews the Weight of Flour and Bran produced at One Dressing through a Fourteen-Shilling-Cloth; and the Account (No. 3.) the Weight of Flour and Bran produced at One Dressing through the Thirteen Shilling Cloth: So that, by comparing those Accounts, the different Produce, arising from dressing with the said Cloths, will appear in the clearest Manner.

And,

And, with respect to the Description of the said Cloths, they are each of them Six Feet in Length, and Six Feet Seven Inches in Breadth at the Head, and Six Feet broad at the Tail, and are composed of Woollen Yarn, and weigh One Pound each when new. And the Thirteen-Shilling Cloth consists of Thirty-two Threads to an Inch in the Warp, and of Twenty-eight to an Inch in the Shoot. And the Fourteen-Shilling Cloth consists of Forty Threads to an Inch in the Warp, and Thirty-six to an Inch the Shoot.

And, with regard to that Part of the Governor's Memorandum which desires that it may be ascertained what Sort of Bolting-Cloth will, at One Operation, separate the finest Half of the Flour from the coarser Half, we beg Leave to observe, that we do not believe, from the Trials which have been made, that any One Sort of Bolting-Cloth will perform that Operation: But we have Room to think that the End may be obtained by dressing through Two different Cloths; and our Officers are under Orders to try how far this may succeed, and we shall very shortly make a Report thereof to their Lordships.

We bespoke, and have very lately received, Two Wire Machines, for dressing of Flour, from the Patentee at *Manchester*; One of which is intended to try whether the Whole Flour of the Wheat can be separated at One Operation; and the other to ascertain, whether, at One Operation, the finer Half of the Flour can be separated from the coarser Half;

and

and we have ordered them to be forthwith set up at His Majesty's Mills; and Trials to be made how they will answer; which we shall report to their Lordships as soon as possible.

We beg Leave, lastly, to observe, That Governor *Pownall*, in his Memorandum, desired that the Experiments mentioned therein might be made both from new and old Wheats; but as we were informed, upon Enquiry, that there was then very little, if any, Difference between the Wheats of the Growth of the last Year and those which were older, and that it would be very difficult to meet with the latter of the different Weights that were judged expedient to be made Trial of, we thought it the most certain Way to make Use of the Wheats of the Growth of the last Year for the several Experiments; and gave Directions therein accordingly; but, if the Governor should think it material to have any older Wheats made Trial of, we shall endeavour to procure such as he may point out for that Purpose. We herewith return Mr. *Cooper's* Letter, and Governor *Pownall's* Memorandum which accompanied the same; and are,

SIR,

Your most humble Servants,

*Jas. Wallace. Robt. Pett. Jonas Hanway. Thos. Colby.
A. Chorley.*

*Philip Stevens, Esquire,
Secretary of the Admiralty.*

No. 1. An

No. I.
An ACCOUNT shewing the Weight of the WHOLE FLOUR of the Wheat, without any Division, produced from Seven different Parcels of that Grain, of the respective Weights per Bushel against each Parcel expressed, by dressing through a Thirteen-Shilling Bolting-Cloth only: Also, the Weight of Bran arising from each Parcel of Wheat; and how the Weight of the said WHOLE FLOUR, and Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, comes out from each Parcel respectively: Also, the Average Weight of the Whole Flour, and Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, taking all the Seven Parcels of Wheat together: viz.

W H E A T.				M E A L.				B R A N.				Average Weight of the Whole Flour, Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, on the Whole of the Seven Parcels.			
Weight per Bushel.		Weight of the Whole.		Loss on Grinding.		The Whole Flour of the Wheat, dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth.		Loss on Dressing.		Weight of Flour produced from a Bushel of Wheat of each Parcel.		Weight of Bran produced from a Bushel of Wheat of each Parcel.		Average Weight of the Whole Flour, Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, on the Whole of the Seven Parcels.	
Measure.															
Qrs.	b.	z.	dr.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb. oz. dr.	lb. oz. dr.	lb. oz. dr.	lb. oz. dr.	lb. oz. dr.	b. oz. dr.
No.															
5	51	14	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,046 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1,375 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	648 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	6	4	10	3	6	
5	53	3	—	2,100 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	1,545 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	547 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	10	3	13	1	1	
5	55	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,174 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,588 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	563 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	11	6	14	1	14	
5	55	15	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,279 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,744 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	494 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	9	10	12	5	12	
5	50	—	8	2,361 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	1,841 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	487 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	—	—	—	—	—	
5	50	10	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,425 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,004 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	384 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	4	3	9	9	12	
5	51	9	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,464 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,036 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	394 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	14	11	9	12	11	

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No. 2.

An ACCOUNT, shewing the WHOLE FLOUR of the Wheat, without any Division, produced from Four Parcels of the said Grain, of the respective Weights *per* Bushel against each Parcel expressed, by dressing through a Fourteen Shilling Bolting Cloth only: also the Weight of Bran arising from each Parcel, and how the Weight of the said WHOLE FLOUR and Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, comes out from each Parcel respectively: also, the Average Weight of the said Flour and Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, taking all the said Four Parcels of Wheat together.

W H E A T.				M E A L.		Loss on Grinding.	The Whole Flour of the Wheat dressed through a Fourteen Shilling Cloth	Loss on Dressing.	BRAN.	Weight of Flour from a Bushel of Wheat from each Parcel.		Weight of Bran from a Bushel of Wheat from each Parcel.	Average Weight of Flour from a Bushel of Wheat, on the Whole of the Four Parcels.	Average Weight of Bran from a Bushel of Wheat, on the Whole of the Four Parcels.	
Qrs.	Bush.	lb. oz.	dr.	lb.	lb.					lb.	lb. oz.				dr.
2	4	48	1	928	1,119	13	914	3 1/2	231 1/2	45	11	3	47	5	11
2	4	58	15	1,167 1/2	1,167 1/2	12 1/2	934 1/2	—	232 1/2	46	11	12	47	5	11
2	4	59	13	1,185 1/2	1,185 1/2	11 1/2	948 1/2	5 1/2	232	47	6	12	47	5	11
2	4	61	—	1,220	1,208 1/2	11 1/2	989 1/2	4 1/2	214 1/2	49	7	9	47	5	11

An ACCOUNT, shewing the WHOLE FLOUR of the Wheat, without any Division, produced from Four Parcels of the said Grain, of the respective Weights *per* Bushel against each Parcel expressed, by dressing through a Thirteen Shilling Bolting Cloth only: also the Weight of Bran arising from each Parcel; and how the Weight of the said WHOLE FLOUR and Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, comes out from each Parcel respectively: also the Average Weight of the said Flour and Bran, from a Bushel of Wheat, taking all the said Four Parcels of Wheat together.

WHEAT.					MEAL.		The Whole Flour of the Wheat dressed through a Thirteen Shilling Cloth.		BRAN.		Average Weight of Flour from a Bushel of Wheat, on the Whole of the Four Parcels.			
Q.s.	Bu.sh.	Weight of the Whole.			lb.	Loss on Grinding.	lb.	Loss on Dressing.	lb.	Weight of Flour from a Bushel of Wheat from each Parcel.	Weight of Bran from a Bushel of Wheat from each Parcel.	lb. oz. dr.		
		per Bu.sh.	lb.	z.									dr.	
2	4	58	1	9	1,149	13	3	928	217	6	10	1		
2	4	58	15	13	1,167	12	2	948	217	6	10	14		
2	4	59	13	9	1,185	11	2	961	222	18	12	—		
2	4	61	—	—	1,208	11	4	1,015	188	50	12	3		
												48	2	10
												—	—	9
												—	—	2

B.

Copy of a Letter from the Commissioners for victualing His Majesty's Navy, to *Philip Stephens*, Esquire, Secretary of the Admiralty, dated 10th *June*, 1774.

IN our Letter of the 30th of last Month, we acquainted you, for the Information of the Right honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that we did not believe, from the Trials which had been then made, that any One Sort of Bolting-Cloth would, at One Operation, separate the finest Half of the Flour from the coarser Half; but that we had room to think the End might be obtained by dressing through Two different Cloths. And, from the Trials that have been made since, it appears, that a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth and a Twenty-one Shilling Cloth, by being made Use of in the Manner described in the inclosed Account (No. 1) will come as near the Matter as can be reasonably expected.

We farther acquainted you, that we had received Two Wire Bolting-Machines from *Manchester*, for dressing of Flour; One of them calculated to take out the Whole Flour of the Wheat at one Operation; and the other for separating, at One Operation, the finer Half of the Flour from the coarser Half;

Half: And, Trial having been since made of the said Machines, it appears by the enclosed Account (No. 2) that the Machine which was marked (A), and calculated to separate the Whole Flour of the Wheat at One Operation, produces Flour, in Quantity and Quality as nearly equal as can be reasonably expected, to the Flour dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth; and therefore we apprehend will answer the Purpose intended. The Description of the Wire Work of this Machine is upon the said Account, (No. 2).

But, with respect to the other Machine, which was designed to separate, at One Operation, the finer Half of the Flour from the coarser Half, we find upon Trial that it will not answer that End without undergoing some Alteration.

No. 1.

An ACCOUNT, shewing what Bolting-Cloths will, on dressing of Flour, divide the same into the finer Half for Wheaten Bread, and the coarser Half for Household Bread; so far as Experiments have been made, viz.

Flour from 5 Quarters of Wheat, weighing 59 Pounds 12 Ounces and 6 Drums $\frac{1}{40}$, dressed through a 13-Shilling Cloth, amounted to			Flour, 1,956 Pounds 8 Ounces, which was dressed through a 13-Shilling Cloth, being dressed again through a 21-Shilling Cloth, with a Partition placed in the Bolting-Mill, at 3 Feet 7 Inches on a Medium from the Head of the said Mill, produced,								
			In the Upper Division.			In the Lower Division.					
			Finest Flour			Coarser Flour.					
			Pounds.	oz.	dr.	Pounds.	oz.	dr.	Pounds.	oz.	dr.
1,956			8	—	—	959	—	—	992	—	—

N. B. The above Dressings divide the whole Flour of the Wheat, Half into the finer Sort, and Half into the coarser Sort, within 33 Pounds, out of 1,956 Pounds 8 Ounces.

No. 2.

An ACCOUNT, shewing the Produce of Flour from 5 Quarters of Wheat, of 59 Pounds 10 Ounces 6 Drams $\frac{16}{100}$ per Bushel, dressed at One Operation through the Wire Bolting-Machine (marked A) which is described at the Foot hereof; viz.

Wheat weighing 59 lb. 10 oz 6 dr. $\frac{16}{100}$ per Bushel.	Total Weight of the Wheat.	Weight of the Meal.	Weight of the Flour.	Weight of the Bran.	Weight of Flour from a Bushel of Wheat.		Weight of Bran from a Bushel of Wheat.	
Quarters.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	lb.	oz.	lb.	oz. dr.
5	2,386	2,353 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,934 $\frac{1}{2}$	410	48	5	12	10 4
								—

N. B. The Wire Work of the above Machine consists of 42 Wires to an Inch both Ways, and the Weight of Six Inches square of the said Wire Work is One Ounce and One Dram.

C.

Copy of a Letter from the Commissioners for victualing His Majesty's Navy to *Philip Stephens*, Esquire, Secretary of the Admiralty, dated 11th June, 1774.

IN addition to our Letter of Yesterday's Date, relating to the Experiments of dressing of Flour, we may have to acquaint you, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a Twenty-one Shilling Bolting-Cloth is Six Feet in Length, and Six Feet Seven Inches in Breadth at the Head, and Six Feet broad at the Tail; and is composed of Woollen Yarn; and weighs One Pound when new; and consists of Sixty-four Threads to an Inch in the Warp, and of Fifty-two Threads to an Inch in the Shoot.

D. The

D.

The Average Price of Wheat at the Corn Exchange,
per Quarter, with the Price of Flour.

1759.	£.	s.	d.	
FROM <i>Sept.</i> 3 to <i>Sept.</i> 10	1	8	1½	per Qr.
New Wheaten Flour fold for	1	8	0	per Sack
Old Do. —	1	7	0	
From <i>Sept.</i> 10 to <i>Sept.</i> 17	1	8	0	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for —	1	7	0	per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 17 to <i>Sept.</i> 24	1	7	4½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for —	1	6	0	per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 24 to <i>Oct.</i> 1	1	8	0	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for —	1	6	0	per Sack
From <i>Oct.</i> 1 to <i>Oct.</i> 8	1	8	5	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for —	1	6	0	per Sack
From <i>Oct.</i> 8 to <i>Oct.</i> 15	1	8	6½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for —	1	6	0	per Sack

1760.

From <i>March</i> 3 to 10	1	7	2	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for	1	6	0	per Sack
From <i>March</i> 10 to 17	1	7	1½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour fold for	1	4	0	per Sack

From

1760.			£.	s.	d.	
From March 17 to 24	—	—	1	6	8½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour sold for	—		1	4	0	per Sack
From March 24 to 31	—	—	1	7	3½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	6	0	per Sack
From March 31 to April 7	—		1	8	1½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	6	0	per Sack
From Sept. 1 to Sept. 8	—		1	9	11½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour sold for	—		1	6	0	per Sack
From Sept. 8 to 15	—	—	1	11	0	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour sold for	—		1	7	0	per Sack
From Sept. 15 to 22	—	—	1	11	5½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	6	0	per Sack
From Sept. 22 to 29	—	—	1	9	6	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	6	0	per Sack
From Sept. 29 to Oct. 6	—		1	9	5	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	6	0	per Sack
From Oct. 6 to 13	—	—	1	8	10	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	6	0	per Sack

1761.

From March 2 to March 9	—		1	4	0	per Qr.
Wh. Flour sold for £.1 2 0 and	1	3	0			per Sack
From March 9 to 16	—		1	3	0½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	1	0	per Sack
From March 16 to 23	—		1	2	6½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	1	0	per Sack
From March 23 to 30	—		1	2	2½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	1	0	per Sack

From

1761.	£.	s.	d.	
From <i>March</i> 30 to <i>April</i> 6	—	1	2	4½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 1 to <i>Sept.</i> 7	—	1	2	7 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 7 to 14	—	1	2	10½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 14 to 21	—	1	3	2½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 21 to 28	—	1	3	1 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 28 to <i>Oct.</i> 5	—	1	2	10½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack
From <i>Oct.</i> 5 to 12	—	1	3	7½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	1	0 per Sack

1762.	£.	s.	d.	
From <i>March</i> 1 to <i>March</i> 8	—	1	7	6½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	4	0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 8 to 15	—	1	11	6 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	7	0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 15 to 22	—	1	11	6 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	8	0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 22 to 29	—	1	12	2 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 7 0 and	1	8	0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 29 to <i>April</i> 5	—	1	12	3½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	8	0 per Sack

From

1762.	£.	s.	d.	
From <i>August</i> 30 to <i>Sept.</i> 6	—	1	11	0 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	7	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 6 to 13	—	1	12	1½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£. 1	6	0 and 1	7 0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 13 to 20	—	1	12	4½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	7	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 20 to 27	—	1	0	11½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	7	0 per Sack
From <i>Sept.</i> 27 to <i>Oct.</i> 4	—	1	11	6½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	7	0 per Sack
From <i>Oct.</i> 4 to 11	—	1	10	8 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	7	0 per Sack

1763.	£.	s.	d.	
From <i>February</i> 28 to <i>March</i> 7	—	1	9	11½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	10	0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 7 to 14	—	1	10	0 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£. 1	8	0 and 1	7 0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 14 to 21	—	1	10	2½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£. 1	7	0 and 1	8 0 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 21 to 28	—	1	9	8½ per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£. 1	6	0 and 1	7 9 per Sack
From <i>March</i> 28 to <i>April</i> 4	—	1	8	0 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	6	0 per Sack
From <i>August</i> 29 to <i>Sept.</i> 5	—	1	12	7 per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	8	0 per Sack

From

1763.		£.	s.	d.	
From Sept. 5 to 12	—	1	15	2½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 8 0 and 1 9 0				per Sack.
From Sept. 12 to 19	—	1	15	4½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	9	0	per Sack
From Sept. 19 to 26	—	1	14	8½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	9	0	per Sack
From Sept. 26 to Oct. 3		1	14	4½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 8 0 and 1 9 0				per Sack
From Oct. 3 to 10	—	1	13	11	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 9 0 and 1 8 0				per Sack

1764.

From Feb. 27 to March 5		1	14	2½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 9 0 and 1 11 0				per Sack
From March 5 to 12	—	1	17	3½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 12 0 and 1 14 0				per Sack
From March 12 to 19	—	1	18	2	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 13 0 and 1 15 0				per Sack
From March 19 to 26	—	1	17	9	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 13 0 and 1 15 0				per Sack
From March 26 to April 2		1	18	4	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£.1 14 0 and 1 15 0				per Sack
From Sept. 3 to 10	—	1	16	11½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From Sept. 10 to 17		1	15	1	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From Sept. 17 to 24		1	17	6½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack

From

1764.			£.	s.	d.	
From Sept. 24 to Oct. 1	—	—	1	16	8½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From Oct. 1 to 8	—	—	1	17	10½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	£. 1	13 0 and	1	14	0	per Sack
From Oct. 8 to 15	—	—	1	17	1½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	1	14	0	per Sack

1765.						
From March 4 to 11	—	—	2	5	0½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	2	0	0	per Sack
From March 11 to 18	—	—	2	3	11½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	2	0	0	per Sack
From March 18 to 25	—	—	2	4	7	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	2	0	0	per Sack
From March 25 to April 1	—	—	2	6	7½	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour	—	—	2	1	0	per Sack
From April 1 to 8	—	—	2	6	11½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	2	1	0	per Sack
From Sept. 2 to 9	—	—	2	1	2½	per Qr.
Flour none fold.						
From Sept. 9 to 16	—	—	1	17	3	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 16 to 23	—	—	1	17	11½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From Sept. 23 to 30	—	—	2	0	2	per Qr.
Flour none fold.						
From Sept. 30 to Oct. 7	—	—	2	0	2	per Qr.
Flour fold	→	—	1	16	0	per Sack
						From

1765.		£.	s.	d.	
From Oct. 7 to the 14	—	1	19	6½	per Qr.
Flour sold	—	1	16	0	per Sack
1766.					
From March 3 to March 10		1	17	3	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	11	0	per Sack
From March 10 to 17	—	1	16	9½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	11	0	per Sack
From March 17 to 24	—	1	15	8½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	11	0	per Sack
From March 24 to 31	—	1	14	2½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	11	0	per Sack
From March 31 to April 7		1	13	2	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	9	0	per Sack
From Sept. 1 to Sept 8		2	5	9½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	18	0	per Sack
From Sept. 8 to Sept. 15		2	8	0	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	19	0	per Sack
From Sept. 15 to Sept. 22		2	7	5½	per Qr.
Flour	—	2	0	0	per Sack
From Sept. 22 to Sept. 29		2	2	2	per Qr.
Flour	—	2	0	0	per Sack
From Sept. 29 to Oct. 6		2	0	6½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	19	0	per Sack
From Oct. 6 to Oct. 13	—	2	2	10	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	19	0	per Sack
1767.					
From March 2 to March 9		2	7	2	per Qr.
Flour	—	£.2	5	0	and 2 6 0 per Sack
		From			

1767.

From March 9 to March 16	2	8	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — £.2 5 0 and	2	6	0	per Sack
From March 16 to March 23	2	9	5	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From March 23 to March 30	2	9	1	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From March 30 to April 6	2	8	0	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From August 31 to Sept. 7	2	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	2	0	per Sack
From Sept. 7 to Sept. 14	2	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	1	0	per Sack
From Sept. 14 to Sept. 21	2	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	1	0	per Sack
From Sept. 21 to Sept. 28	2	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — £.2 2 0 and	2	3	0	per Sack
From Sept. 28 to Oct. 5	2	10	10	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	4	0	per Sack
From Oct. 5 to Oct. 12	2	11	7	per Qr.
Flour — £.2 4 0 and	2	5	0	per Sack

1768.

From February 29 to March 7	2	9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From March 7 to March 14	2	10	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From March 14 to March 21	2	8	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — —	2	6	0	per Sack

From

1768.	£.	s.	d.	
From March 21 to March 28	2	8	11	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From March 28 to April 4	2	8	5	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	6	0	per Sack
From August 29 to Sept. 5	2	5	11	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour — —	2	3	0	per Sack
From Sept. 7 to Sept. 9	2	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — — — £. 2 2 0 and	2	3	0	per Sack
September 9 — — —	1	8	9	per Qr.
Flour — — — £. 2 2 0 and	2	3	0	per Sack
From September 9 to 12	2	6	11	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour £. 2 2 0 and	2	3	0	per Sack
From Sept. 12 to 14	2	4	2	per Qr.
Flour — — — £. 2 2 0 and	2	3	0	per Sack
From Sept. 14 to 16	1	15	11	per Qr.
Flour — — — £. 2 2 0 and	2	3	0	per Sack
From Sept. 16 to 19	2	6	9	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	2	0	per Sack
From Sept. 19 to 23	2	1	5	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	0	0	per Sack
From Sept. 23 to 26	2	3	4	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	0	0	per Sack
From Sept. 26 to 28	1	18	4	per Qr.
Wheaten Flour none fold.				
From Sept. 28 to 30	1	17	21	per Qr.
Flour — — —	1	18	0	per Sack

X

From

1768.		£.	s.	d.	
From Sept. 30 to Oct. 3	—	1	15	8½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	18	0	per Sack
From Oct. 3 to 5	—	1	16	7½	per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	16	0	and 1 17 0 per Sack
From Oct. 5 to 7	—	1	12	0	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Oct. 7 to 10	—	1	14	5	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Oct. 10 to 12	—	1	15	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Oct. 12 to 14	—	1	11	8	per Qr.
Flour, none fold.					

1769.		£.	s.	d.	
From March 1 to March 6	—	1	14	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From March 6 to 8	—	1	16	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From March 8 to March 13	—	1	15	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From March 13 to March 15	—	1	16	4	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From March 15 to March 20	—	1	14	8	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack
From March 20 to March 22	—	1	15	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	1	13	0	per Sack

From

1769.	£.	s.	d.	
From <i>March 22 to March 27</i>	1	14	9½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	13	0	per Sack
From <i>March 29 to April 3</i>	1	12	10½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	13	0	per Sack
From <i>April 3 to April 5</i>	1	16	5½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	13	0	per Sack
From <i>April 5 to April 10</i> —	1	14	8	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	13	0	per Sack
From <i>September 1 to Sept. 5</i>	1	11	8½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	10	0	per Sack
From <i>September 5 to Sept. 6</i>	1	14	8½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	10	0	per Sack
From <i>September 6 to Sept. 11</i>	1	13	8½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	10	0	per Sack
From <i>September 11 to Sept. 13</i>	1	15	1	per Qr.
Flour — £. 1 10 0 and	1	11	0	per Sack
From <i>September 13 to Sept. 18</i>	1	15	0½	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	11	0	per Sack
From <i>September 18 to Sept. 20</i>	1	16	3	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	11	0	per Sack
From <i>September 20 to Sept. 25</i>	1	13	10	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	11	0	per Sack
From <i>Sept. 25 to 27</i> —	1	14	2	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	10	0	per Sack
From <i>Sept. 27 to Oct. 2</i>	1	13	0	per Qr.
Flour — —	1	10	0	per Sack

X 2

From

1769.			£.	s.	d.	
From Oct. 2 to 4	—	—	1	13	10	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	10	0	per Sack
From Oct. 4 to 9	—	—	1	13	4	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	10	0	per Sack
From Oct. 9 to 11	—	—	1	15	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	10	0	per Sack
From Oct. 11 to 13	—	—	1	15	0	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	10	0	per Sack
1770.						
From March 2 to 5	—	—	1	9	7½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 5 to 7	—	—	1	11	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 7 to 12	—	—	1	12	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 12 to 14	—	—	1	12	10	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 14 to 19	—	—	1	12	7	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 19 to 21	—	—	1	11	8½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 21 to 26	—	—	1	13	5½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 26 to 28	—	—	1	12	9½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From March 28 to April 2	—	—	1	12	2½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
						From

1770:			£.	s.	d.	
From April 2 to 4	—	—	1	13	0½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From April 4 to 6	—	—	1	12	4	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	8	0	per Sack
From Sept. 3 to 5	—	—	2	1	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 5 to 10	—	—	1	19	6½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 10 to 12	—	—	2	2	5	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 12 to 17	—	—	1	18	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 17 to 19	—	—	2	2	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 19 to 24	—	—	2	2	5½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 24 to 26	—	—	2	4	0	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Sept. 26 to Oct. 1	—	—	2	4	7	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	16	0	per Sack
From Oct. 1 to 3	—	—	2	4	11½	per Qr.
Flour	£. 1	16 0 and	1	17	0	per Sack
From Oct. 3 to 8	—	—	2	4	6½	per Qr.
Flour	£. 1	16 0 and	1	17	0	per Sack
From Oct. 8 to 10	—	—	2	3	8	per Qr.
Flour	£. 1	16 0 and	1	17	0	per Sack

1770.			£. s. d.		
From Oct. 10 to 15	—	—	2	0	2½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	No Price fixt.		
1771.					
From March 1 to March 4			2	2	0 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 4 to 6			2	3	3½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 6 to March 11			2	2	9½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 11 to March 13			2	3	7 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 13 to March 18			2	1	6 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 18 to March 20			2	4	5 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 20 to March 25			2	3	7 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 25 to March 27			2	3	4 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From March 27 to April 1			2	2	0½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From April 1 to April 3			2	2	9½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From April 3 to April 8			2	1	9½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	1	18	0 per Sack.

From

1771.		£. s. d.		
From Sept. 2 to Sept. 4		2	5	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From Sept. 4 to Sept. 9		2	2	1 per Qr.
Flour	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From Sept. 9 to Sept. 11		2	5	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	1	18	0 per Sack.
From Sept. 11 to Sept. 16		2	6	9 per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	18	0 and 1 19 0 per Sack.
From Sept. 16 to Sept. 18		2	5	3 per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	19	0 and 2 0 0 per Sack.
From Sept. 18 to Sept. 23		2	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	1	19	0 per Sack.
From Sept. 23 to Sept. 25		2	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	19	0 and 2 0 0 per Sack.
From Sept. 25 to Sept. 30		2	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	19	0 and 2 0 0 per Sack.
From Sept. 30 to Oct. 2		2	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	19	0 and 2 0 0 per Sack.
From Oct. 2 to Oct. 7		2	2	11 per Qr.
Flour	—	1	19	0 per Sack.
From Oct. 7 to Oct. 9		2	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	1	19	0 per Sack.
From Oct. 9 to Oct. 14		2	4	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ per Qr.
Flour	—	£. 1	19	0 new, and 2 0 0 old, per Sa.

1772.		£. s. d.		
From March 2 to March 4		2	6	1 per Qr.
Flour	—	2	0	0 per Sack.

X 4

From

1772.		£. s. d.			
From	March 4 to March 9	2	5	7½	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	0	0	per Sack.
From	March 9 to March 11	2	6	7½	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	0	0	per Sack.
From	March 11 to March 16	2	6	5½	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	0	0	per Sack.
From	March 16 to March 18	2	9	0½	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	2	0	per Sack.
From	March 18 to March 23	2	7	8	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	2	0	per Sack.
From	March 23 to March 25	2	10	11½	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	4	0	per Sack.
From	March 25 to March 30	2	10	6	per Qr.
Flour	— £. 2 3 0 and	2	4	0	per Sack.
From	March 30 to April 1	2	13	8½	per Qr.
Flour	— £. 2 5 0 and	2	6	0	per Sack.
From	April 1 to April 6	2	13	7½	per Qr.
Flour	— £. 2 5 0 and	2	6	0	per Sack.
From	April 6 to April 8	2	12	6½	per Qr.
Flour	— —	2	5	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 2 to Sept. 7	2	11	9	per Qr.
Flour	— — —	2	5	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 7 to Sept. 9	2	13	2	per Qr.
Flour	— — —	2	5	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 9 to Sept. 14	2	14	0	per Qr.
Flour	— — —	2	5	0	per Sack.

From

1772.				£.	s.	d.	
From Sept. 14 to Sept. 16	—	—	—	2	14	7½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 16 to Sept. 21	—	—	—	2	14	7½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 21 to Sept. 23	—	—	—	2	15	0½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 23 to Sept. 28	—	—	—	2	12	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 28 to Sept. 30	—	—	—	2	14	9½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 30 to Oct. 5	—	—	—	2	12	8½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Oct. 5 to Oct. 7	—	—	—	2	12	10	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Oct. 7 to Oct. 12	—	—	—	2	10	2½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.
From Oct. 12 to Oct. 14	—	—	—	2	11	7½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	5	0	per Sack.

1773.							
From March 1 to March 3	—	—	—	2	14	6	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From March 3 to March 8	—	—	—	2	10	3½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From March 8 to March 10	—	—	—	2	12	5½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.

From

1775.				£.	s.	d.	
From	March 10	to	March 15	2	8	4½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	March 15	to	March 17	2	11	0	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	March 17	to	March 22	2	11	7	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	March 22	to	March 24	2	10	11½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	March 24	to	March 29	2	13	1½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	March 29	to	March 31	2	12	10	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	March 31	to	April 5	2	13	10½	per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	April 5	to	April 7	—	2	11	8½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	3	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 1	to	Sept. 6	—	2	16	0 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	8	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 6	to	Sept. 8	—	2	16	1½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	8	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 8	to	Sept. 13	—	2	10	7½ per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	8	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 13	to	Sept. 15	—	2	15	2 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	8	0	per Sack.
From	Sept. 15	to	Sept. 20	—	2	16	0 per Qr.
Flour	—	—	—	2	8	0	per Sack.

From

1773.

£. s. d.

From Sept. 20 to Sept. 22	2	13	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	8	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 22 to Sept. 27	2	14	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	8	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 27 to Sept. 29	2	12	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	per Qr.
Flour — — —	2	8	0	per Sack.
From Sept. 29 to Oct. 4	2	9	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	per Qr.
Flour — £.2 7 0 new, 2	8	0	old, per S.	
From Oct. 4 to Oct. 6	2	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	per Qr.
Flour £.2 7 0 new, and 2	8	0	old, per S.	
From Oct. 6 to Oct. 11	2	7	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	per Qr.
Flour £.2 7 0 new, and 2	8	0	old, per S.	
From Oct. 11 to Oct. 13	2	9	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	per Qr.
Flour £.2 6 0 new, 2 7 0, and 2	8	0	old, per S.	

E. No. 1.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. *Milne of Manchester*.*Manchester, 1st January, 1774.*

S I R,

A Few Days ago I sent directed to you; viz.

2 Divisions of finest	s.	£.	s.	d.
Wire Work, No. 60, at 15 per	—	1	10	0
2 Ditto — No. 58, at 15 per	—	1	10	0
2 Ditto — No. 54, at 15 per	—	1	10	0
2 Ditto — No. 48, at 10 per	—	1	0	0
2 Ditto — No. 42, at 7 per	—	0	14	0
2 Ditto — No. 35, at 7 per	—	0	14	0
2 Ditto — No. 30, at 5 per	—	0	10	0
2 Ditto — No. 24, at 2s. 6d. per	—	0	5	0
2 Ditto — No. 12, at 2s. 6d. per	—	0	5	0

7 18 0

A Division is in Length just right to reach round a Machine, and Breadth sufficient to reach between one Wood Circle and another; but we generally make the Wire Work 2 Divisions broad. Our common Flour-Machines (of which I think we make Twenty Times as many as any other Sort) are intended to dress Fine Flour, 2ds and 3ds, and divide the Pollard at One Operation: They are about 6 Feet long, and have 15 Divisions of Wire Work in them, which are of the following Sorts; viz.

- 4 of the Top Divisions, are No. 54.
 4 next — — No. 58, or 60.
 3 Do. — — No. 30, or 35.
 2 Do. for fine Pollard No. 24.
 2 Ditto for coarse Pollard No. 12.

And these Machines for dressing Bisket Stuff are composed of Wire Work, as follows:

- 4 Divisions at Top — — No. 35.
 7 Ditto — — No. 42.
 4 Ditto — — No. 24.

You have both of these Sorts of Machines in Use at your Mills at *Redbouse* and *Rosberbithe*; on which Account I thought it would be best to send you perfect Divisions as above; and, when you have tried the necessary Experiments with them, they will do to repair those Machines with. You desire to know how many Wires there are in an Inch long and an Inch broad in every Sort of Wire Work: with regard to that, every Number describes itself; for Instance, No. 60 hath 60 Wires in an Inch, both Length and Breadth; and so of all the rest.

If you want any farther Instructions, you may freely command,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Jn^o Milne.

Copy.

Hen. Pelham.

E.

E. No: 2.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. *Milne*, of *Manchester*, to
Mr. *Pelham*, of the Victualing-Office, dated the
2d of February, 1774.

S I R,

YOUR Favour of the 27th lies before me,
by which I observe you have received the Wire
Work, &c. You desire to know what No. of Wire
Work is proper to take out of any given Quantity
of Flour about Half of the finest Sort, for Wheaten
Bread, the other Half to make Household Bread. I
think 4 Divisions (No. 54) at the Top of a Machine
will take out, in a general way, about Half the
Quantity of Flour for fine; yet I think it would be
well to have 2 Divisions (No. 58) below these, be-
cause some Meal dresses better than others; and,
when it has been ground Ten Days or a Fortnight,
it dresses better than when it is newly ground; and,
to dress the other Half of the Flour at the same
Operation for Household Bread, the Wire Work
should be No. 42; but, by Means of a movable
Partition under the Machine (which I always recom-
mend, see the Plan of the Machine), you may take
Two of the first Divisions, or three or Four, or what
you please, and consequently have exactly what
Quantity or Quality you will. The greatest Part of
the

the Machines which I make for fine Flour, for all Parts of *England, Ireland, &c.* are of No. 54 and 58; and No. 60 is quite fine enough for *Hertsfordshire Whites*. I think I mentioned before, that the Number of Wires, in Length and Breadth, are always equal to the Number called. If you please, I will make any Machines in any particular Manner you choose; and if you want any other Directions, in any Respect whatsoever, you may freely command,

SIR,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

J^{no} Milne.

P. S. If you let Mr. *Cooper* have the Wire Work, it will be very right.

Copy.

Hen. Pelham.

E.

E. No. 3.

Manchester, the 4th May, 1774.

The Honourable Commissioners

Bought of *Milne, Robinson, and Place,*

£. s. d.

2 Flour-Machines and Packing-Cases, } 26 0 0
 at £. 13 each — — —

Gentlemen,

TO your Order we have sent as above, which believe will answer the Purpose you desire them.—The Machine you desire, to dress at One Operation all the Flour, free from Bran and Pollard, is made of One Sort of Wire Work (No. 42); that is, there are 42 Wires in an Inch, and the Holes both in Length and Breadth are geometrical Squares; and the Weight of Six Inches square of this Wire Work is One Ounce and One Dram. The other Machine you desire, to dress Two Sorts of Flour, is composed of Wire Work as follows; viz. 6 Divisions (No. 54) and 9 Divisions (No. 42); the Weight of Six Inches square of the finest (No. 54) is just One Ounce, and the Holes are geometrical Squares; the other (No. 42) you have an Account of the Weight, &c. above, it being the same Fineness of Wire Work the other Machine is composed of. This last Machine will, we believe, dress One Half of the Flour fine, and clear the other from the Bran and Pollard.

In

In order that you may distinguish one Machine from the other, that Machine which is composed of one Sort of Wire Work is marked (A), and the other (B).

Extract.

Hen. Pelham.

F.

MEMORANDUM.

A Description of the several Bolting-Cloths most commonly used, from an Account of Mr. *William Mathers*, Bolting-Cloth Weaver, at *Queenbitch*, viz.

21 s.	Cloth	64 Threads to the Inch,	in the Warp.
	52	Ditto	Ditto, in the Shoot.
18 s.	—	52	Ditto Ditto, in the Warp.
	44	Ditto	Ditto, in the Shoot.
16 s.	—	44	Ditto Ditto, in the Warp.
	40	Ditto	Ditto, in the Shoot.
14 s.	—	40	Ditto Ditto, in the Warp.
	36	Ditto	Ditto, in the Shoot.
13 s.	—	32	Ditto Ditto, in the Warp.
	28	Ditto	Ditto, in the Shoot.
8 s.	—	17	Ditto Ditto, in the Warp.
	16	Ditto	Ditto, in the Shoot.

Henry Pelham.

Y

G. EXPE,

G.

EXPERIMENTS on the Produce of Wheat in Flour, Bran, &c.

1773. Nov. 25.

	lb.
ONE Quarter of new Wheat, of 59½	
lb. per Bushel — —	474
Produced Meal — —	468
Waste in Grinding — —	6
Meal as above — —	468

Dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth,
produced,

Flour — —	374
Bran — —	92
Waste in Dressing — —	1½

This Flour therefore comes out at the Rate of 46
lb. 12 oz. per Bushel.

Two

APPENDIX.

331

		lb.
Two Quarters of new Wheat, at 57½ per		
Bushel	— — —	924
Produced Meal	— —	909½
Waste in Grinding	— —	14½
Meal as above	— — —	909½

Dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth,
produced

Flour	— —	708
Bran	— —	196
Waste in Dressing	—	5½

This Flour comes out at the Rate of 44 lb.
4 oz. per Bushel.

1773, Nov. 29.

		lb.
One Quarter of new Wheat, at 60 lb. per		
Bushel	— —	480
Produced Meal	— —	476
Waste in Grinding	— —	4
Meal as above	— — —	476

Y 2

Dressed

Two

Dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth,
produced

Flour	—	—	383
Bran	—	—	92
Waste in Dressing	—	—	1

The above comes out at 47 lb. 14 oz. *per* Bushel.

ABSTRACT of Four Quarters of Wheat ground,
and then dressed through a Thirteen-Shilling Cloth.

	lb.
From One Quarter, of 59 lb. <i>per</i> Bushel	374½
Two Quarters, of 57½ lb. Ditto	708
One Quarter, of 62 lb. Ditto	383
	1465½

Which is at the Rate of 45 lb. 12 oz. 12 dr. *per*
Bushel, at an Average.

ABSTRACT of the Bran produced from the above
Wheat.

From One Quarter of Wheat at 59 lb. <i>per</i>	
Bushel	— — — 92
Two Quarters	— — at 57½ lb. Do. 196
One Quarter	— — at 60 lb. Do. 92
	380
	Which

Which is at the Rate of 11 lb. 11 oz. 14 dr. per bushel, at an Average.

The 1465 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Flour produced as above, upon being dressed again together through,

Prices of the Cloths.

Produced Households	1003	—	21s.
Seconds	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	18
Thirds	70	—	16
Middlings	212	—	13
Pollard	—	30	

Waste in Dressing 6

1465 $\frac{1}{2}$

The above Sorts of Flour taken all together, and including the Pollard, produce at the Rate of 45 lb. 9 oz. 4 dr. per Bushel of Wheat.

And, without the Pollard, at the Rate of 44 lb. 12 oz. 10 dr. per Bushel.

Wheat, One Quarter of 61 lb. per Bushel	488
Produced Meal — — —	483 $\frac{1}{2}$
Loss in Grinding — — —	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Pounds.

Meal from the above Quarter of Wheat — 483 $\frac{1}{2}$

Which, being dressed through a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth, produced,

Flour — 388

Bran — 93 $\frac{1}{2}$

481 $\frac{1}{2}$

Loss in Dressing — 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

388 lb. of Flour come out at the Rate of 48 lb.

8 oz. from a Bushel of Wheat.

N. B. Last Year's Wheat.

	Pounds.
Wheat, One Quarter, of 57 lb. per Bushel	456
Produced Meal — —	452 $\frac{1}{2}$
Loss in Grinding — —	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Meal from the above Quarter of Wheat 452 $\frac{1}{2}$

Which, being dressed through a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth, produced,

Flour — 353 $\frac{1}{2}$

Bran — 96 $\frac{1}{2}$

450 $\frac{1}{2}$

Loss in Dressing — 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

353 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Flour come out at the Rate of 44 lb.
3 oz. 8 dr. from a Bushel of Wheat.

N. B. Last Year's Wheat,

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of the Quantity of Flour produced from the Two Quarters of Wheat before-mentioned, dressed through a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth.

	Pounds.
From One Qr. of Wheat, of 61lb. per Bushel	388
One Qr. of Ditto, of 57lb. per Ditto	353½
Total	741½

The above Flour comes out at the Rate of 46lb. 5oz. from a Bushel of Wheat.

The Bran from the above Wheat was

	Pounds.
From the Quarter of 61lb. to the Bushel	93½
From the Quarter of 57lb. to Ditto	96½
Total	190½

Which is at the Rate of 11lb. 14oz. of Bran from a Bushel of Wheat.

The 741 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Flour, which were produced from dressing through a Fourteen Shilling Cloth, upon being dressed again, produced the following Particulars; viz.

	lb.	Prices of Cloths.
Households, or finest Flour	500 $\frac{1}{2}$	21s.
Seconds	118	18
Thirds	35	16
Middlings	64	14
Pollard	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	735 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Loss in Dressing	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	741 $\frac{1}{2}$	

The above Sorts of Flour, including the Pollard, come out at 45lb. 15oz. 8dr. from a Bushel of Wheat.

And, exclusive of Pollard, at 44lb. 13oz. 8dr. from Ditto.

Memorandum.

The foregoing Account of Experiments of the Dressing of Flour was sent by me to Governor *Pownall*, and is a true Copy of the Account which I have of those Experiments.

Hen. Pelham.

H. OBSER-

which more nearly concerns the Generality of the People than to be so far acquainted with what comes the Article of Bread as to be enabled to judge whether they are supplied therewith agreeable to the Directions of the Legislature. It is in this Part

OBSERVATIONS relating to BREAD and FLOUR.

following Part, I shall make such Observations as may in this Part, in the best Form in which I can lay it before them. As the Laws relating to it are but few,

IT would be needless to go about to prove, that Bread is one of the most important Articles amongst our Provisions; it being well known, that it constitutes a very considerable Aliment, even of the greatest and most opulent People in this Kingdom, and that the poorer Sorts of our Fellow Subjects do, at all Times, derive the greatest part of their Subsistence from it.

Our Lawgivers were so well apprised of this, that, from the most early Times, they took care to ascertain and make known to the People, by Means of the Tables of Assize, the Quantity of Bread they had a Right to expect from the Bakers, according to the governing Market-Prices of Wheat: And they also very humanely ordained, that Bread of different Prices should be made from this Grain, in order that the Poor might be able to procure a sufficient Quantity of it, for the Support of themselves and their Families, at a less Price than the Rich.

And whoever considers this Matter with Attention must soon perceive, that there is nothing which

which more nearly concerns the Generality of the People than to be so far acquainted with what concerns the Article of Bread as to be enabled to judge whether they are supplied therewith agreeable to the Directions of the Legislature. It is in this Persuasion that I venture to submit to the Committee the following Facts, States, and Observations, as my Information, in the best Form in which I can lay it before them. As the Laws relating to it are but few, I shall go back to the First Act for setting an Assize on Bread, that appears in the printed Collection of our Statutes, which was in the Fifty-first Year of Henry the Third, and in the Year of our Lord 1266.

By this Act many Sorts of Bread from Wheat were allowed to be made and sold; but the great Length of Time which has intervened renders it more difficult than could be wished to explain all the Particulars relating to them: I shall therefore confine myself to the Three following Sorts; viz. Wastell Bread, Bread of the Whole Wheat, and Bread Treet.

The First of them, that is to say, the Wastell Bread, which was the finest of the Three, was to weigh as much again as the Bread Treet, which was the coarsest, ; and the Bread of the whole Wheat, which was the Middle Sort, was to weigh Three-fourths of the Bread Treet. And, by the Assize Table in the said Act, when Wheat was at Twelve Pence *per* Quarter, the following Quantities of the

Three Sorts of Bread before-mentioned were to be fold for One Farthing; *viz.*

To weigh.

lb. oz. dr.

Wastell Bread, of a Farthing. 6 16 0

Bread of the Whole Wheat, of ditto — 10 7 0

Bread Treet, of ditto 13 12 0

And the Act expressly says, "That then a Baker, in every Quarter of Wheat (as is proved by the King's Bakers), may gain Four Pence and the Bran, and Two Loaves for Advantage." So that, admitting these Two Loaves to be Farthing Loaves, which is the only Sort mentioned in the Act, the Bread produced from a Quarter of Wheat at that Time (computing from the Bread of the Whole Wheat, was 517 Pounds 6 Ounces Troy; which is equal to 426 Pounds 1 Ounce, 12 Drams, Avoirdupois, and comes out at the Rate of 53 Pounds 4 Ounces of Bread from a Bushel of Wheat.

It appears farther, that the Affize of Bread was directed to be set from the Middle Price of Wheat; And, as it informs us, that the Bakers would gain the Bran, and takes Notice of their Bultel (or Bolt-ing) among their Charges, it is evident, that they dressed their own Flour, and, except the Grinding, were the sole Manufacturers of Wheat into Bread.

This Statute continued in Force for the long Term of Five Hundred Years and upwards, or till the Year

1709,

1709, which was in the Eighth Year of the Reign of Queen *Anne*; when it was repealed, and a new one made for regulating the Assize and Price of Bread; the Preamble whereof sets forth, "that the before-mentioned Act of *Henry* the Third was expressed in Terms so obscure and impracticable in those Times, that many Doubts and Difficulties did daily arise in the Construction thereof; whereby little or no Observance had in many Places been made, either of the due Assize, or reasonable Price of Bread; and that covetous and evil-minded People, taking Advantage of the same, had, for their own Gain and Lucre, deceived and oppressed her Majesty's Subjects, and more especially the poorer Sort of People."

By this Act of the Eighth of Queen *Anne*, only Three Sorts of Bread were retained and allowed to be made and sold, viz. White, Wheaten, and Household; which were to weigh, in Proportion to each other as follows; viz. the White, which was the finest, was to weigh half as much as the Household, which was the coarsest; and the Wheaten, which was the Middle Sort, was to weigh Three-fourths as much as the Household: Which said Proportions correspond exactly with those which the Wastell Bread and Bread Treet, and the Bread of the Whole Wheat, under the Act of the 5th of *Henry* the Third, were to bear to each other.

And the Magistrates, upon the setting the Assize under this Act of Queen *Anne*, were empowered to make a reasonable Allowance to the Bakers, for their Charges,

Charges, Pains, and Livelihoods; and the Affize-Table was so formed, as that the Quantity of Bread, which a Bushel of Wheat was calculated to produce, would yield the Bakers the Market-Price of the Bushel of Wheat, and likewise the Sum allowed by the Magistrates for their Charges, Pains, and Livelihoods.

This will appear very plain, by stating the Affize of Bread to be set at *London*, under the said Act, from Wheat and Baking, at Six Shillings *per* Bushel;

viz.

The Baker	D ^t	Per Contra	C ^t
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>
To Wheat One Bushel	4 6	By 2 Twelve Penny Loaves of	
To Bakers Allowance on ditto,		White Bread, of 5 lb. 12 oz.	
from the Magistrates	1 6	3 dr. each	2 -
		By 2 Twelve Penny Loaves of	
		Wheaten Bread, of 8 lb. 11 oz.	
		1 dr. each	2 -
		By 2 Twelve Penny Loaves of	
		Household Bread, at 11 lb.	
		9 oz. 6 dr. each	2 -
	6 -		6 -

And the said State will also prove, that the Weight of Bread which the Bakers were required to deliver to the Public, from a Bushel of Wheat, under the said Act, was 52 lb. 2 oz. *viz.*

	lb.	oz.	dr.
Two Shillings worth of White Bread	11	4	9
Two Shillings worth of Wheaten Do.	17	6	2
Two Shillings worth of Household Do.	23	2	12
	52	2	2

And

And any other Article of Wheat and Baking, in the Affize-Table, will, upon Examination, bring out the like Proof.

But this Act had one capital Defect in it; which was, that it did not require the Affize of Bread to be set from the Middle-Price of Wheat; which seems the more extraordinary, as it was expressly enjoined by the Statute of the 5th of *Henry* the Third, which immediately preceded it: And the Want of such a Restriction left the Magistrates at Liberty to set the Affize of Bread from the highest Price of Wheat; and it has been publicly asserted, that they actually set the Affize in that Manner.

However, with this Defect in it, the Act continued in Force till the Year 1757, which was in the Thirty-first Year of the Reign of King *George* the Second; when (with other Acts, continuing or amending the same) it was repealed, and a new one made for the regulating the Affize of Bread. The Preamble of which doth not point out any particular Faults in the aforesaid Act of Queen *Anne*, but only observes in general, “That it was expedient to reduce into One Act the several Laws then in force relating to the due Making and to the Affize of Bread; and to make some Alterations and Amendments therein.” And to the Intent therefore, that from and after the 29th of September 1758, a plain and constant Rule and Method might be duly observed and kept, it was Enacted, That only Two Sorts of Bread should be made for Sale: *viz.* Wheaten, and

and Household, otherwise Brown Bread; and that the Household should always be sold One Fourth less than the Wheaten.

This will appear by consulting the Affize-Table in any one Article of the Price of the Bushel of Wheat and Baking; by which it will also be seen, that the Quantity or Weight of Bread required to be delivered to the Public, by the Bakers, from a Bushel of Wheat, *Winchester* Measure, by this Act, is 52 Pounds 2 Ounces, calculating One Half thereof to be Wheaten and the other Half Household.

For instance: When the Price of Wheat and Baking is 7 Shillings, One Peck and a Half of Wheaten and One Peck and a Half of Household Bread under this Article, which together will weigh 52 Pounds 2 Ounces, will pay the Baker the Price of the Bushel of Wheat, and the 18 Pence *per* Bushel for the Magistrates Allowance (at *London*) for his Labour, Charges, Livelihood, and Profit; *viz.*

	Weight		Price	
	Lb.	oz.	s.	d.
One Peck Loaf of Wheaten Bread	17	6	2	8
One Half Peck Loaf of Ditto —	8	11	1	4
One Peck Loaf of Household Bread	17	6	2	—
One Half Peck Loaf of Ditto —	8	11	1	—

£2 2 — 7 —

And

And the same will appear, as far as Fractions will allow, if the Affized Bread, under the said Article of Wheat and Baking, be examined; viz.

WHEATEN BREAD.

	lb.	oz.	dr.	lb.	oz.	dr.
One 18 Penny Loaf	9	14	7	22	12	15
One 12 Penny Loaf	6	8	4			
One 12 Penny Loaf	6	8	4			

HOUSEHOLD BREAD.

	lb.	oz.	dr.	lb.	oz.	dr.
One 18 Penny Loaf	13	—	9	30	6	11
One 12 Penny Loaf	8	11	1			
One 12 Penny Loaf	8	11	1			
Pence 84 or Seven Shillings				53	3	10

And the Affize of Bread under this Act is ordered to be set from the Middle Price of Wheat, and the Magistrates are empowered, as they were under the 8th of Queen *Anne*, upon setting the Affize, to add such a Sum to the Price of the Bushel of Wheat as they shall deem sufficient for the Bakers' Charges, Labour, Pains, Livelihood, and Profit.

In the Year 1768, it was contended, that this Statute of the 31st of *George* the Second was less beneficial to the People than that of the 8th of Queen *Anne*,

Anne, and a Committee of the honourable the House of Commons were appointed to enquire into the Laws relating to the Assize of Bread; but no Alterations were made in them, in Consequence of the Deliberations of this Committee.

The Dearness of Corn in the Year 1772 occasioned His Majesty, out of His paternal Goodness and Compassion, to signify to both Houses of Parliament, That He was persuaded, their Attention would not be wanting, as far as human Wisdom would admit, to alleviate the Distresses of the Poor; and that they could not gratify him more than by calling upon Him for his Concurrence in whatever might contribute to the Welfare and Happiness of His People. In Consequence of which, a Committee of the honourable the House of Commons was again appointed, to examine into the Laws relating to the Assize of Bread: And upon their Report, an Act was passed in that Session, by which a Middle Sort of Bread (similar to the Wheaten Bread under the Act of the 8th of Queen *Anne*) was resumed, under the Name of Standard Wheaten Bread, which was to be made of the Flour of Wheat, that, without any Mixture or Division, was to be the whole Produce of the Grain, the Bran or Hull excepted, and to weigh Three-Fourth Parts of the Wheat from which it should be made; and the said Bread was to be sold at One-Eighth Part less than the Wheaten Bread in the aforesaid Act of the 31st of *George* the Second, or One-Eighth more than the Household Bread in

that Act. And the Weight of Standard Wheaten Bread, which is required to be delivered to the Public from a Bushel of Wheat, as Fifty-two Pounds Two Ounces.

Upon a Review of the several Acts before mentioned, the Weight of Bread which the Bakers were by them respectively required to deliver to the Public, from a Bushel of Wheat, appears to be as follows: *viz.*

Under what Act.	Weight of Bread, Avoirdupois, from a Bushel of Wheat.		
	lb.	oz.	dr.
51st <i>Henry III.</i>	51	2	2
8th <i>Queen Anne</i>	52	2	0
31st <i>George II.</i>	52	2	0
13th of His present Majesty —	52	2	0

Whence it may be observed, that the Bakers were not required, by the Act of *Henry* the Third, to deliver so much Bread from a Bushel of Wheat as they have been obliged to do by the Acts that have been made since. Yet it is plain (as is humbly apprehended) that a Bushel of Wheat, at the time of making the said Act of *Henry* the Third, did produce

duce more Bread than Fifty-two Pounds Two Ounces, which is the Quantity the subsequent Acts have required to be delivered to the Public. And, perhaps, the Persons who framed the Acts of the Eighth of Queen *Anne*, and the Thirty-first of *George* the Second, by not requiring more than Fifty-two Pounds Two Ounces of Bread from a Bushel of Wheat, might have some View to the Two Loaves for Advantage, which (together with the Bran) the Act of the 51st. of *Henry* the Third expressly says they would gain upon every Quarter of Wheat, more than by the Assize-Table they were obliged to deliver to the Public.

But whether this Surmise be well-founded or not is not very material; for, it is very certain, that the Flour from a Bushel of Wheat will, on an Average, produce more Bread than Fifty-two Pounds Two Ounces. It is not intended, however, to draw any Inference thence to the Prejudice of the Bakers. The Laws have always considered them as the sole Agents to the Public for the manufacturing of Wheat into Bread, and at the same Time taken all imaginable Care that they should not suffer, but, on the contrary, should be at all Times sufficiently paid for working for the Community. For, if Wheat be ever so dear, they are sure to be paid the Market Price of it, in the Price of the Bread. And in that Price they also receive the Magistrates Allowance, which not only includes a Reimbursement of the Charges of grinding and dressing the Wheat into Flour, but

of all other Charges of manufacturing it into Bread, and a Consideration likewise for their Pains, Labour, Livelihood, and Profit. And as the Assize of Bread is liable to be altered, whenever the Price rises or falls Three Pence in a Bushel, this Circumstance renders it needless for them to employ large Capitals, and secures them from being injured from the Fluctuation of Markets, unless they will lay-in large Stocks of Wheat upon Speculation, which this Variation of the Assize is evidently calculated to prevent and render unnecessary.

In order to render this Matter the more plain, I have endeavoured, by the State or Account marked (a), in the Appendix, to shew how the Case would stand with the Baker at *London*, if he were to buy his Wheat, and bolt it into Flour, and bake and sell Wheaten and Household Bread, under the Act of the Thirty-first *George* the Second, at the present Assize of Bread at *London*, which is set from Wheat and Baking at Six Shillings and Six Pence *per* Bushel.

And by another Account, marked (b) in the Appendix, I have endeavoured to shew the like with respect to Standard Wheaten Bread, under the Act of the Thirteenth of His present Majesty.

And it is humbly apprehended that it will appear from the said Accounts, that if the Bakers were to carry on their Business according to the Tenor and Design

Design of the Laws; that is, by purchasing of Wheat, and dressing it into Flour, which was the Method in many People's Memory, they might furnish the Public with good and genuine Bread, of the respective Sorts required by the said Acts, and be paid what the Legislature designs they should receive for their Pains, Labour, Livelihood, and Profit.

But the Millers (who, till within these late Years, had no other Part, from Time immemorial, in the manufacturing of Wheat into Bread, than the grinding the Wheat into Meal for the Bakers) are now for the most Part become Purchasers of Wheat, and Dressers of it into Flour, for Sale, upon their own Accounts; and as they are not bound by Law to dress Flour of such Sorts as are proper for making the respective Kinds of Bread required by the Statutes now in Force, nor obliged to sell the Flour which they do dress, in Proportion to the Market-Price of Wheat, the Bakers, who are obliged to buy their Flour of the Mealman, cannot purchase the same so as to enable them to bake and sell any of the Sorts of Bread, required to be made by the said Statutes (except the Wheaten Bread under the Thirty-first of *George the Second*) and to receive the Magistrate's Allowance, over and above the Prices which they must give for their Flour.

The Account marked (c) in the Appendix, it is apprehended, will make this very clear, with respect

to the Act of the Thirty-first of *George the Second*. And it is presumed that the Account, marked (d) in Ditto, will do the same with Regard to the Statute of the Thirteenth of His present Majesty.

And as the Mealman's Profit is a Point which it greatly concerns the Community to form an Idea of, the Account marked (e) in the Appendix, calculated from the present Market-Prices of Flour, and Average Price of Wheat, according to the present Affize of Bread, is humbly apprehended to be a very near Estimate thereof.

When the several Particulars before mentioned are considered, it is presumed that the Public can be no longer at a Loss to know why so little Household Bread was made under the Act of the Thirty-first of *George the Second* : Or why the Expectations of the Legislature have not been answered, with regard to a Supply of Standard Wheaten Bread, under the Act of the Thirteenth of His present Majesty.

For the Millers, contrary to the ancient Usage and Custom of the Realm, having stepped in between the Growers of Corn and the Bakers, and being under no Restraint, by Law, to sell the same at such Prices as to correspond with the Market-Price of Wheat, the Profits arising to them in this Business must unavoidably occasion an Increase of Expence upon Bread; which must fall upon the Community in one

Shape or other. And the Way in which this Incroachment on the Bakers' Trade has hitherto operated has been by depriving the People of the Advantage of being furnished with the Proportion of Household Bread intended by the Legislature.

And it will doubtless be a matter of great Surprise to the Generality of the People, when they come to find what an immense Sum this Loss has amounted to: for, if one Fourth Part of the Proportion of Household Bread should be supposed to have been made during the Continuance of the Act of the Twenty-first of *George* the Second; yet, under this Supposition, the Cities of *London* and *Westminster* will be found, upon a moderate Computation, to have suffered (together) the annual Loss, upon an Average, of One Hundred and Thirty-five Thousand Pounds; and the People of the other Parts of *England* and *Wales*, who are computed to eat Bread made of Wheat, the yearly Loss of Four Hundred Twenty-one Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-five Pounds: so that, within the Space of Sixteen Years, which is the Time the said Act has been in Force, the Injury which hath arisen to the Community by its not being complied with, appears, by the State marked (f) in the Appendix, to amount in the Whole to Eight Millions Nine Hundred and Ten Pounds. And what makes it infinitely more to be regretted is, that this enormous Sum has, for the most Part, been forced out of the Pockets of the

working and industrious Poor, by obliging them to purchase Wheaten Bread, through the Want of Household or *brown* Bread having been made to supply them, as was intended by the Legislature.

In order to prevent so capital an Evil for the future, it is humbly apprehended, that, if the Bakers are to continue under the Necessity of buying their Flour from the Mealmen, the latter should be obliged by Law to dress Flour under the same Denominations as the respective Sorts of Bread, directed to be made by the Statutes now in Force, and no other; and be also obliged to sell the several Sorts of Flour at certain fixed Prices, to be governed by, and calculated from, the Market-Price of Wheat, in order to enable the Bakers that buy their Flour to make and sell the respective Sorts of Bread, according to the Prices set *from Wheat* in the Affize-Table.

It is likewise apprehended, that the Law should describe what Sort of Flour each Sort of Bread should be made of; and also in what Manner each Sort of Flour should be dressed: by which Means the Public would know the Quality of the Bread they ought to have for their Money, and be enabled to procure Redress, if imposed upon therein, as they can do at present, if defrauded in Weight, by the Help of the Affize-Table.

To explain this more fully, it is necessary to observe,

serve, that the following are the Sorts of Flour that have hitherto been generally dressed from Wheat by the Mealmen; viz.

Households.

Seconds.

Thirds.

Middlings.

Which said Sorts of Flour are dressed through the different Sorts of Bolting-Cloths following; viz.

Dressed through

The Households — a 21-Shilling Cloth.

Seconds — an 18-Shilling Cloth.

Thirds — a 16-Shilling Cloth.

Middlings — a 13-Shilling Cloth.

But as the Acts of Parliament now in Force require the under-mentioned Sorts of Bread to be made, viz. Wheaten Bread, Standard Wheaten Bread, and Household or *brown* Bread; it is humbly apprehended, that no Flour should be allowed to be sold but under the proper Denominations for making those Sorts of Bread; that is to say,

For making

Best Wheaten Flour - Wheaten Bread.

Standard Wheaten Flour - Standard Wheaten Bread.

Household Flour - Household or *brown* Bread.

And that their respective Qualities, and Manner of Dressing,

Dressing, should be ascertained and described, as shall be found right by Experiments: and that the Nature and Texture of the Bolting-Cloths, through which it may be found proper the said Sorts of Flour should be dressed, should be particularly and clearly described.

And as many People have of late come into the Method of Dressing of Flour through Bolting-Machines made of Wire, instead of Cloths, it will be necessary also to ascertain the different Degrees of Fineness the Wirework of such Machines must be of, to dress Flour of the Denominations before mentioned.

It is also apprehended, that all Millers should be obliged to grind Wheat for the Bakers, when required, at the accustomed Toll or Price; and likewise for all private Persons; as it might, among other Advantages, revive a Custom of the utmost Consequence to the industrious labouring People employed in Agriculture; who formerly used to be supplied with Wheat from the Farmers for whom they worked, which, being ground at Mill, they afterwards dressed into Flour through Sieves at Home, and baked it into Bread there; by which Means it came to them at a much cheaper Rate than buying it of the Bakers; or by purchasing Flour of Mealmen or Bakers to bake into Bread themselves.

Hen. Pelham.

THE

THE APPENDIX.

(a.)

AN ACCOUNT, shewing on what Terms a Baker at London (buying his Wheat) may make and sell Wheaten and Household or *Brown Bread*, under the Act of the 31st Geo. the 11d, according to the present Assize of Bread set at London, from Wheat and Baking, at 6s. and 6d. per Bushel.

N. B. The Magistrates Allowance at London to the Baker is 18d. on a Bushel of Wheat; so that when they set the Assize of Bread from Wheat and Baking at 6s. and 6d. per Bushel, they must deem the Average Market Price of Wheat to be 5s. per Bushel, or 40s. per Quarter: on which Principle the Account will stand as follows; viz.

The Baker — Dr	Per Contra — Cr
£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To 5 Quarters of Wheat, at 40s. per Quarter — 10 0 0	By Sixty Peck Loaves of Wheat-en Bread, at 2s. 6d. each — 7 10 0
To the Magistrates Allowance to the Baker for grinding and dressing, and all other Charges, and for his Pains, Livelihood, and Profit, at 18 Pence per Bushel, or 12s. per Quarter of Wheat — 3 0 0	By Sixty Peck Loaves of Household Bread, at 1s. 10d. each — 5 10 0
£ 13 0 0	£ 13 0 0

Memorandum

Memorandum. The above 120 Peck Loaves are all that the Law requires the Baker to deliver, under the Act of 31st Geo. the 2d, from 5 Quarters or 40 Bushels of Wheat; and they pay him for his Wheat, and the Magistrates Allowance of 12 Shillings *per* Quarter for grinding and dressing, &c. and for his Pains, Livelihood, and Profit.

To this Allowance of 12 Shillings *per* Quarter must be added the Value of the Bran and Pollard, which at this Time is at least 3s. 11d. *per* Quarter.

Besides this, it must be observed, that 42 Pounds of Flour will make the whole Quantity of Bread required to be delivered to the Public from a Bushel of Wheat: So that whatever Quantity of Flour the Wheat may yield above 42 Pounds from a Bushel, the Surplus must be considered as an additional Profit to the Baker, as it enables him to make a proportionable Quantity of Bread from a Bushel of Wheat more than the Law requires of him.

If only Two Pounds and a Quarter of Flour extraordinary were to be obtained from a Bushel of Wheat, the Value thereof in Bread at this time would be something above 2s. on a Quarter of Wheat, after deducting Six Pence for every Peck of Bread for the Magistrates Allowance to the Baker.

(b.)

AN ACCOUNT shewing on what Terms a Baker at *London* (buying his Wheat) may make and sell Standard Wheaten Bread, under the Act of the 13th of His present Majesty, according to the present Assize of Bread of *London*, set from Wheat and Baking at 6 s. 6 d. per Bushel.

N. B. The Magistrates Allowance at *London* to the Baker is 1 s. 6 d. per Bushel; so that when they set the Assize of Bread from Wheat and Baking at 6 s. 6 d. per Bushel, they must deem the Average Market-Price of Wheat to be 5 s. per Bushel, or 40 s. per Quarter: On which Principle the Account will stand as follows; viz.

The Baker — D ^r	Per Contra — C ^r
£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To 5 Quarters of Wheat, at 40 s. per Quarter — 10 0 0	By One hundred and Twenty Loaves of Standard Wheaten Bread, at 2 s. 2 d. each, being $\frac{1}{4}$ th less than the Wheaten Bread under the 31st Geo. the 1 st , according to the present Assize 13 0 0
To the Magistrates Allowance to the Baker for grinding, dressing, and all other Charges, and for his Pains, Livelihood, and Profit, at 18 d. per Bushel, or 12 s. per Quarter of Wheat 3 0 0	
<u>£ 13 0 0</u>	<u>£. 13 0 0</u>

Memorandum

Memorandum. The above 120 Peck Loaves are all that the Baker is required to deliver, under the Act of the 13th of His present Majesty; and they pay him for his Wheat, and the Magistrates Allowance of 12 Shillings *per* Quarter, for grinding and dressing, and for his Pains, Livelihood, and Profit.

To this Allowance of 12 Shillings *per* Quarter, must be added the Value of the Bran and Pollard, which at this Time is at least 5s. 11d. *per* Quarter.

Besides this, it is to be observed, that 42 Pounds of Flour will make the whole Quantity of Bread required to be delivered to the Public from a Bushel of Wheat: So that whatever Quantity of Flour the Wheat may yield above 42 Pounds from a Bushel, the Surplus must be considered as an additional Profit to the Baker, by enabling him to make a proportionable Quantity of Bread from a Bushel of Wheat, more than the Law requires of him.

And, if only Two Pounds and a Quarter of Flour extraordinary were to be obtained from a Bushel of Wheat, the Value thereof in Bread at this Time would be something above Two Shillings on a Quarter of Wheat, after deducting 6d. for every Peck of Bread for the Magistrates Allowance to the Baker.

(c.)
An ACCOUNT, shewing on what Terms a Baker at London (if he is obliged to purchase his Flour) can bake and sell Wheaten and Household Bread, under the Act of the Thirty-first of George II. at the present Market-Prices of Flour, and Affize of Bread, set from Wheat and Baking at Six Shillings and Six Pence *per* Bushel; *viz.*

The Baker	Dr	Per Contra	Cr
		To make 60 Loaves of Wheaten Bread.	
		<i>£. s. d.</i>	
To 60 Peck Loaves of Wheaten Bread, at 2s. 6d. each according to the above Affize	7 10 0	By 840lb. of Households, or finest Flour, at 40s. <i>per</i> Sack	6 0 0
		By the Baker's Profit	1 10 0
	7 10 0		<i>£. 7 10 0</i>
		To make 60 Loaves of Household Bread.	
		<i>£. s. d.</i>	
To 60 Peck Loaves of Household Bread, at 1s. 10d. each, according to the above Affize	5 10 0	By 240 of Households, at 40s. <i>per</i> Sack	1 14 3½
		215 of Seconds, at 37s. <i>per</i> Sack	1 8 4½
		96 of Thirds, at 34s. <i>per</i> Sack	11 7½
		289 of Middlings, at 25s. <i>per</i> Sack	5 9½
		840	
		By the Baker's Profit	0 9 11
	5 10 0		<i>5 10 0</i>

N. B. In the Prices of the above 120 Loaves, are included the Magistrates Allowance of Twelve Shillings *per* Quarter on Wheat, or Ten Shillings *per* Sack on Flour.

Memorandum

Memorandum. It appears, by the foregoing Account, that the Baker can purchase Flour at the present Market-Price, to make Wheaten Bread, and receive the Price set thereon by the Affize, besides the Magistrates Allowance for his Charges, Pains, Livelihood and Profit:

But that he cannot buy Flour to enable him to make Household Bread, so as to receive One Third even of the Magistrates Allowance, over and above the Price he must give for the Flour.

N. B. £. 5. 0s. 2d.¹/₂. for 840 Pounds of Flour for Household Bread, is at the Rate of 33s. 4d.¹/₂. per Sack of 280 Pounds.

(d). An

(d).

An ACCOUNT, shewing on what Terms a Baker at *London* (who is obliged to buy his Flour) can make and sell Standard Wheaten Bread, under the Act of the Thirteenth of His present Majesty, at the present Market-prices of Flour, and Affize of of Bread, at *London*, set from Wheat and Baking at Six Shillings and Six Pence *per* Bushel.

The Baker — — — Dr. Per Contra — — — Cr.								
£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		
To 120 Peck			By 1,680 Pounds, or 6 Sacks of 280					
Loaves of Stan-			Pounds each, of Flour (being the					
dard Wheaten			Proportion to make 120 Peck					
Bread, at 2s.			Loaves of Bread, at the Rate of 14					
d. each, ac-			Pounds of Flour to a Peck Loaf) of					
cording to the			the several Sorts, Quantities, and					
above Affize	13	0	Prices, described in the foregoing					
	0	0	Account, marked (c); viz.					
					11	0	1½	
			Pounds per Sack	£.	s.	d.		
			Households, 1080 at 40s.	7	14	3½		
			Seconds,	215	at 37s.	1	8	4½
			Thirds, —	96	at 34s.	0	11	7½
			Middlings,	289	at 25s.	1	5	9½
			Which being thrown together, com-					
			pose the Whole Flour of the Wheat,					
			and amount to					
			By the Baker's Profit	—	—	1	19	10½
£.	13	0		£.	13	0	0	

Memorandum. 120 Peck Loaves of Bread are all that the Baker is required by Law to deliver from Five Quarrers of Wheat, or 1,680 Pounds of Flour. But it is plain, from the foregoing Account, that the Baker cannot buy 1,680 Pounds of the Whole Flour of the Wheat, or Standard Wheaten Flour, at the present Market Prices, on such Terms as to receive the Magistrates Allowance for Baking, over and above the Price he must give for the Flour: For, instead of £. 3. he will receive only £. 1. 19s. 10d. ½.

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(c). A

(c).

A COMPUTATION of the Mealman's Profit, at the present Market Prices of Flour at *London*, and the Average Market Price of Wheat, according to the present Affize of Bread.

N. B. The Magistrates Allowance at *London* to the Baker is One Shilling and Six Pence on a Bushel of Wheat; and as the present Affize of Bread is set from Wheat and Baking as Six Shillings and Six Pence *per* Bushel, they must deem the Average Price of Wheat to be 5s. *per* Bushel, or 40s. *per* Quarter: On which Principle the Account will stand as follows; viz.

The Mealman	Dr.	Per Contra.	Cr.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
To Five Quarters of Wheat, at 40s. <i>per</i> Quarter	10 — —	By 1,080 of Households, or finest Flour, at 40s. <i>per</i> Sack	7 14 3½
To grinding and dressing the said Wheat, at 3s. <i>per</i> Quarter	— 15 —	By - 215 of Seconds, at 3s. <i>per</i> Do.	1 8 4½
To Mealman's Profit	1 4 8	By - 96 of Thirds, at 3s. <i>per</i> Do.	— 11 7½
		By - 289 of Middlings, at 2s. <i>per</i> Do.	1 5 9½
		1,680	
		By the Rent and Pollard From Five Quarters of Wheat, at 3s. 11d. <i>per</i> Quarter	— 19 7
	£ 11 19 8		£ 11 19 8

N. B. The

N. B. The above computation is made upon the Supposition, that the Produce of Flour is only 336 Pounds from a Quarter of Wheat, or 42 Pounds from a Bushel; which last Quantity is the Proportion to make Three Pecks of Bread; which is all that the Acts of the 31st *George* the Second, and the 13th of His present Majesty, require to be delivered from a Bushel of Wheat.

But it must be observed, that Wheat in general will yield more than 42 Pounds of Flour from a Bushel; and, whatever the Surplus may be, must be considered as an additional Profit to the Mealman.

And if only Two Pounds and a Quarter of Flour extraordinary were to be obtained from a Bushel of Wheat, the Value thereof at this Time would be Two Shillings and Four Pence Farthing upon a Quarter of Wheat.

(f.)

A COMPUTATION of the Loss, which hath arisen to the Community, by the Proportion of Household Bread not having been made, that was intended by the Act of the 31st of *George* the Second.

BY the said Act, the Flour from the Wheat, is calculated to be made Half into Wheaten, and Half into Household Bread; the latter to be sold one Fourth cheaper than the former.

The Cities of *London* and *Westminster* are computed to consist of 600,000 People; and every Person is calculated to consume One Quarter of Wheat in a Year in Bread: So that the yearly Consumption of Wheat in the said Cities has been estimated at 600,000 Quarters.

By the Assize-Table in the said Act, One Bushel of Wheat is computed to produce Three Peck Loaves of Bread: Consequently, a Quarter of Wheat is deemed to make Twenty-four Peck Loaves of Bread,

Therefore, 600,000 Quarters of Wheat should produce 7,200,000 Peck Loaves of Wheaten, and 7,200,000 Peck Loaves of Household Bread: And as the Assize hath not been lower upon an Average, during the Continuance of the said Act, than 1s. and 11d. for the Peck Loaf Wheaten, and 1s. and 5d. for the Peck Loaf Household, the Public, from

600,000

600,000 Quarters of Wheat, ought to have been supplied yearly with

	No.				£.
Peck Loaves, Wheaten	7,200,000	at	1 11	each	690,000
Peck Loaves, Household	7,200,000	at	1 5	each	510,000
					14,400,000
					£. 1,200,000

It is, however, generally acknowledged, that the People have been supplied with but very little Household Bread under that Act: But if it should, for Argument sake, be supposed, that One Fourth Part of the Proportion thereof *viz.* (1,800,000 Peck Loaves) hath been made yearly; yet, under this Supposition the Inhabitants of the said Cities, by being obliged to purchase 5,400,000 Peck Loaves of Wheaten Bread, instead of being furnished with the remaining Three Parts of 7,200,000 Peck Loaves Household Bread, will be found to have suffered an annual Loss of £.135,000, as *per* the following Account; *viz.*

A COMPUTATION of the Expence of Bread for
One Year, for the Cities of *London* and *West-*
minster.

Peck Loaves.	s.	d.	£.
To 7,200,000 of Wheaten Bread at 11	690,000		
To 5,400,000 { of Ditto, pur- { chased for want { of the due Quan- { tity of House- { hold Bread be- { ing made, }	at Ditto	517,500	
To 1,800,000 { of Household { Bread, supposed { to be made, }	at 15	127,500	
14,400,000			£. 1,335,000

The said Cities, from 600,000 Quarters
of Wheat, ought to have been fur-
nished with 7,200,000 Peck Loaves
Wheaten, and with Ditto Number
Household; which, at the above
Prices, would have come to — 1,200,000

Loss to these Cities, by not being fur-
nished with the due Proportion of
Household Bread — — 135,000

The

The Rest of the People of *England* and *Wales*, who are computed to use Bread made of Wheat, are calculated to be in Number 3,750,000; and, supposing them to be circumstanced like those in *London* and *Westminster*, their Loss, by not being supplied with Household Bread, stated in the same Manner as for those Cities, must have amounted to £. 843,750 *per Annum*.

But, as some Farmers, and other Persons in the Country, may probably have their own Wheat ground, and dress the Flour at Home, and bake their own Bread, some Abatement of course ought to be made on that Account; And, in order not to exaggerate Matters, let it be supposed that Half the said 3,750,000 People buy their own Wheat, and bake their own Bread; which will reduce the Loss from £. 843,750 to the yearly Sum of £. 421,875; and in such Case the Total computed Loss to the Community, by not being supplied with Household Bread, according to the Intention of the aforesaid Act of the 31st *George the Second*, will stand as follows; viz,

	£.
Loss to the Cities of <i>London</i> and <i>West-</i> <i>minster</i> , for 16 Years, at £. 135,000 <i>per Annum</i> — — —	2,160,000
Loss to the People of the other Parts of <i>England</i> and <i>Wales</i> , for 16 Years, at £. 421,875 <i>per Annum</i> — — —	6,750,000
Total	£. 8,910,000

I.

EXPERIMENTS made by *T. Farrer*, Esquire,
Layton-Stone, Essex.

Three Quarters Wheat, which, according to the
present Method of dressing for Wheaten Bread,
produce 60 Peck Loaves.

1773.	£.	s.
23d March. 3 Qrs. Wheat cost 55s. <i>per</i> Qr.	8	5
Charges to the Mill, 1s. <i>per</i> Qr.	0	3
Grinding and Dressing, 3s. <i>per</i> Qr.	0	9
	£. 8	17
	The	

	C.	qrs.	lb.	
The above 3 Qrs. produced	10	1	8	Flour.
		2	1	14 Bran.
By Grinding and Dressing	0	1	20	Waste.
Weight of the Wheat —	13	0	14	
being at 61 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pounds per Bushel.				

	Peck	Loaves.
Now the above 10 C. 1 qr. 8lb. Household Flour, at 14 Pounds to the Peck Loaf, render	82	8 Pounds.

So that in 3 Quarters of Wheat there is gained, in Aid of the Consumption of Bread, 22 Peck Loaves and 8 Pounds.

Three Quarters of Wheat, which, according to the present Method of Dressing for Wheaten Bread, render 60 Peck Loaves.

1772.			£. s.
30th March.	3 Qrs Wheat cost 50s. per Qr.	7	10
	Charges to the Mill, Dressing,		
	and Grinding — —	0	12
		£. 8	2
			The

	C.	qrs.	lb.	
The above Wheat produced	9	3	10	Flour.
	2	1	14	Bran.
	0	1	20	Waste.

Weight of the Wheat, — — 12 2 16
 being at 59 Pounds *per* Bushel.

Peck
 Loaves.

Now the above 9 C. 3 qrs. 10 lb. }
 Household Flour, at 14 Pounds to } 78 10 Pounds
 the Peck Loaf, render

So that in 3 Quarters of Wheat, at 59 Pounds *per*
 Bushel, there is gained, in Aid of the Consumption
 of Bread, 18 Peck Loaves and 10 Pounds.

Queen *Anne's* Wheaten Bread, produced at the ho-
 nourable House of Commons, by *Thomas Farrer*,
 15th November, 1772.

Made from Two Bushels of Meal, weighing
 112 Pounds.

Which produced,

Flour	89 Pounds.
Bran	21 Pounds.
Waste	2 Pounds.

112
 Peck
 Loaves.

The 112 Pounds, Queen *Anne's* }
 Wheaten Bread, render, at 14 } 6 5 Pounds.
 Pounds the Peck, —

According

According to the present Mode of Dressing the Wheaten Bread, they would render no more than 5 Peck Loaves:

So that there is gained, in Aid of the Consumption of Bread, in Two Bushels Queen Anne's Wheaten Flour, which is the true Household Flour, 1 Peck Loaf 5 Pounds.

K.

NARRATIVE of Proceedings and Experiments,
by Sir George Young, Baronet.

IN Pursuance of the Act of Parliament passed the last Session, empowering Justices of the Peace, and other proper Magistrates, to prohibit, for a limited Time, any *Bread* to be made of a finer Quality than that which was, in the Act, called *Standard Wheaten*; the Justices of the Peace for the County of *Devon*, and the Magistrates of the County of the City of *Exeter*, resolved to issue a Prohibition in Pursuance of the said Act; and, at the last *Michaelmas* Quarter Sessions, gave the necessary Orders accordingly; which Orders have been carried into Execution, and enforced from Time to Time, ever since.

The

The extensive County of *Devon*, though universally a Corn Country, and for the most Part of it well cultivated, being entirely an enclosed Country, except in the neighbourhood of the Forests or Mountains of *Ex-Moor* and *Dartmoor*, is, notwithstanding, all supplied with Flour; the Number of Meal Men, Flour Men, and Flour Mills, being but few, for particular Reasons; so that a great Part of the Corn grown within the County is exported to the Counties whence they are supplied with Flour; chiefly *Hampshire* and the *Isle of Wight*. The Sorts of Flour supplied thence, at the Time of the Magistrates issuing the above Orders of Sessions, were what is called *Firsts*, *Seconds*, *Thirds*, with some *Middlings*. Upon issuing those Orders, the Bakers and others, throughout the County, directed their Correspondents to send them only the Flour proper for making the *Standard Wheaten Bread*, except such Flour as was still wanted for *Penny* and *Twopenny Loaves*, which were still allowed: These Directions were complied with, and, in consequence of them, the Flour sent was of the Sort called *Firsts*, and what was called by the Name of *Parliament Flour*, which turns out to be a Sort nearly corresponding to *Seconds* though something inferior, but much superior to *Thirds*.

Thus the County was supplied with proper Flour, in Obedience to the Order of Sessions. Another Consequence soon followed: The Millers and Flour Men within the County changed their Bolting-Cloths. At the Time of making the Order, the Bolting-

Cloths, at the several Flour Mills, were chiefly of the Sorts which were sold at *Exeter* for 16*s.* 18*s.* 20*s.* 21*s.* 22*s.* and as far as 24*s.*; the general Run was about 21*s.* Immediately upon the Orders being issued, these Cloths were changed for 14*s.* Cloths, which were found to be the Cloths that would the nearest give the Flour which should weigh Three Fourths of the Bushel of Wheat without any Mixture, or other Division: The other Cloths were laid aside, and have continued so ever since. The Cloths thus adopted, instead of the former, were likewise found to contain by the Warp and Woof about 30 Threads by 32 in an Inch square. With these Cloths, the Millers and Flourmen, in general, dressed the Flour ready for the Use of the Bakers, in Compliance with the Order of Session; but in some Parts it was not regarded.

At *Christmas*, 1773, the Magistrates of the County of *Devon*, and of the County of the City of *Exeter*, renewed their former Order; at which time the following Experiment was made at *Escott*, in Presence of Three Justices of the Peace, a Miller, who kept a Flour Mill, a Baker, and a Farmer; and it was intended to try what Sort of Bread would be made, in pursuance of the Act of Parliament, and what Quantity of Flour might be produced from a Bushel of Wheat, dressed in a proper Cloth, pursuant to the Order of Session.

A Bushel of Wheat was taken from some Tithe Corn grown in the Neighbourhood, and collected in Kind; which, being the mixed Produce of several
Sorts

Sorts of Land, was chosen as the fair Test of the Produce of the Crop: The Bushel of Corn, being Eight Gallons, weighed 59 Pounds 8 Ounces, (*Troy*). After being weighed, it was sent to the Mill to be ground: and, in order to have the full Weight, the Miller was paid in Money for his Toll. *N. B.* The usual Price for grinding a Bushel of Wheat there was 4*d.*; but, in order to encourage the Miller to do Justice, he had 6*d.* given him. The Corn, thus ground, was returned back with little or no Waste that could be perceived, at least none to any Amount: It was then dressed through a 14*s.* Cloth or Sieve; and the Produce in Flour, exclusive of the coarse Pollard and Bran, was exactly 44 Pounds 10 Ounces, being Three Fourths of the Weight of the Bushel of Wheat, or very near it.

This 44 Pounds 10 Ounces of Flour was then made up into Dough, mixing with it Water, Salt, and Yeast; and the Dough was baked into Four Loaves, as nearly equal in Weight as possible: and the Whole Flour, thus being made into Dough, being suffered to ferment, and rise, by the Ingredients mixed with it, was found to weigh, before baking, nearly 70 Pounds: after baking, the Dough, thus formed into Bread, was decreased in its Weight again, so that the Four Loaves of Bread weighed exactly the same Weight as the whole Bushel of Corn before it was ground.

N. B. In making the Dough, a Quart of good Yeast was used, and a proper quantity of Salt and Water.

Water. It is likewise observable, that, the better the Quality of the Corn or Flour, the more Water must be used to make the Dough.

The Bread produced by this Experiment was an exceeding good, white, pleasant, and nutritious, Bread; and, what is remarkable, kept longer and better than the common Sort of Bread bought of the Baker.

After this, the coarse Flour and Pollard, or Bran, weighing 14 Pounds 10 Ounces, was, out of Curiosity, dressed again, and reduced to something more than 9 Pounds, leaving nothing but the plain-Bran: This coarse Flour being likewise made into Dough, and baked, produced a Loaf of Bread, weighing about 13 Pounds 8 Ounces; and the Bread produced by this Experiment was a very good brown Bread, though coarse.

N.B. The Miller said, That the Bran which remained was worth about 4*d.* at the Country Market.

From these Experiments it certainly appeared, That the Standard Wheaten Bread, made of Flour dressed through a 14-Shilling Cloth, is an exceeding good, wholesome, and nutritious, Bread; much superior to what is commonly used by the poorer Classes of People in most Towns and Cities, and even than in the City of *London*, and far beyond what is used by the Poor People in the Country.

It likewise appeared, That the Standard Wheaten Bread cannot be ascertained, without the Concurrency

sence of the Miller and Flourman, as well as Baker.

It likewise appeared, and was proved, by the Experience of the Gentlemen present, and confessed by the Miller who attended the Experiments, That a greater Proportion of the real Produce of a Bushel of Corn was rendered applicable to the Purpose of Food than any other Way; and the Miller, in particular, said, That he had not had occasion to buy so much Corn, by one Half, since the Order of Session, which had then continued from *Michaelmas* to *Christmas*, to supply the same Number of Customers, as he did before.

It likewise appeared, That the Baker, or even any poor Person, might, by the Assistance of a Sieve made of a Fourteen-Shilling Cloth, obtain a Flour fit to make the *Standard Wheaten Bread*, if they could but oblige or prevail on the Miller to grind the Corn; there being no Difficulty in the Process. Indeed it likewise appeared, upon Enquiry, That the Generality of the poorer Sort of People, in that Part of the Kingdom, did, when they could, get their Corn ground at the Grist Mills, and then dressed the Whole through a Cloth, or Sieve, which did not divide, or separate, above Eight Pounds of coarse Pollard and Bran from the Buthel, and thus made a good Brown Bread; and, if the Use of Hand-Mills were established, this would be more practised in the Country.

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It likewise appeared, that any given Quantity of Flour, &c. in general, gain One Fourth of its Weight upon being made into Bread: so that a Flour weighing Three Fourths of a Bushel of Corn will bake into exactly the Weight of the whole Bushel; and Flour, which weighs little more than Half the Bushel of Corn, will make into Bread which will weigh Three-fourths of the Bushel: supposing, therefore, the Bushel of Corn to weigh (as it may fairly be stated to do) about Sixty Pounds, Forty-five Pounds Weight of Flour will make just Sixty Pounds Weight of Bread; and about Thirty-four Pounds Weight of Flour will make just Forty-five Pounds Weight of Bread; and so in Proportion for any greater or less Quantity, supposing the Bread to be made of *Standard Flour*, that is, of Flour being the whole Produce of the Corn. Thus too it appears, that if a Bushel of Corn weighs Sixty Pounds, and the Price is Forty Shillings *per* Quarter, that is exactly One Penny *per* Pound; and, if *Standard Wheaten Bread* were then sold for One Penny *per* Pound, likewise Forty-five Pounds Weight of Flour, made into Bread, would exactly produce the Value of the Bushel, or Quarter, of Corn, with a very considerable Profit to the Miller and Baker.

Upon the Whole, the Proceedings of the County of *Devon* and City of *Exeter*, followed since by other Counties, prove clearly, that, in Times of Scarcity or Dearth of Corn, it may be extremely proper for

the Magistrates to enforce the Use of the *Standard Wheaten Bread*; and that they should be *required* in such Cases to enforce it : but this cannot be enforced without putting the Miller, Mealman, and Flourman, under proper Regulations ; who, for want of it, have stood between the Bounty of Heaven and the poor Consumer ; nor is there the least Doubt but the Loss to the People thereby, in Food and Treasure, has been exceedingly great. The Experiments, as above related, tend likewise to shew, that the Flour may be ascertained, and the Bread made, with very great Ease and Advantage to private Families, and with very sufficient Profit and Encouragement both to Miller and Baker ; but that it is unjust to the Baker to leave him, as he is at present, at the Mercy of the Miller, by a partial Regulation ; and that the Provisions of the late Act of Parliament cannot completely benefit the Consumer, without extending them to the Miller, Mealman, and Flourman, as well as to the Baker.

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EXPERIMENTS and OBSERVATIONS on Flour and Bread, delivered to the Committee by Dr. *Irwing.*

TO grind Wheat into Flour with the greatest Advantage, the Mill-stone should make about Sixty Revolutions in a Minute: if faster, the Stones acquire too much Heat, and give a burnt Taste to the Meal: if slower, a Part of it adheres firmly to the Bran or Husk, and cannot be separated in the Bolting.

Flour, when kept some Time, evaporates a Part of its Moisture, becomes less adhesive and clammy, loses somewhat of its agreeable Taste, and imbibes a greater Portion of Water in the making of it into Dough: the Bread of it appears smoother in the Cutting, whiter in the Grain, dries sooner, and becomes more crumbly, than the Bread of new Flour. These Reasons induce the Baker to prefer old Flour to new in the making of Bread.

The Yeast of Porter does not raise Bread so perfectly as that produced from Small Beer: besides, it is very bitter to the Taste: the Baker, therefore, in London, instead of using a sufficient Quantity of

Yeast for the leavening of his Bread, mixes only a small Portion of it with Flour and Water, made to the Consistence of a Syrup, called *Sponge*; which, when fermented, is added to the Flour; and, being worked up together into Dough, the whole Mass is suffered to ferment.

This Method, however, of leavening the Dough, is by no Means so good as that in which Yeast only is used; as it gives the Bread a sour Taste, frequently perceptible in that of *London*. I find by Experiment, that Three Pounds and a Half of Flour, kept a Year in a dry Place, requires Two Pounds of Water to make it into Dough, and loses in the baking into Bread Ten Ounces; but from the variable Age, Dryness, and Quality, of the Flour, with the indeterminate Degrees of Kneading and Baking, it is impossible to ascertain the exact Proportion of Water in all Cases; nor is any uniform Proportion ever observed by the Bakers.

Flour made from heated or damaged Corn does not thoroughly mix with Water, so as to form a perfect Dough, unless a small Portion of Alum be added. In this Case, the Baker is induced to use it; as he may be likewise when the Water with which he makes the Dough is very muddy; Alum having the Property of purifying it. I find, however, by the Experiment of dissolving the Salt from Bread by Water, and adding to the Solution an Alkali (which would

would discover the Earth of Alum by Precipitation), that the Bakers in *London* very seldom use Alum; but substitute hard Pump Water, with an extraordinary Quantity of common Salt; which, in some Measure, answer their Purpose, in the working of damaged Flour.

Flour or Bread, freed of its Salt, being burnt in a Crucible, leaves behind only a very small Portion of Earth; but if Chalk, Lime, Whiting, Bone Ash, or any calcareous Substance, be mixed with either, these foreign Ingredients will remain unconsumed in the Crucible, and the Quantity may be perfectly ascertained.

The Mixture of these Ingredients with Flour or Bread may also be discovered, by adding Spirit of Salt well diluted with Water; and their Quantity known by Precipitation with a fixt Alkali. The following Experiments were made with a View of ascertaining these Facts:

EXPERIMENT I.

One Pound of fine Flour, burnt in a Crucible, left behind Twenty-eight Grains of Earth; of which Nineteen were sandy Matter; the Remainder soluble in an Acid.

EX-

EXPERIMENT II.

One Pound of Bread of a Quartern Loaf, freed of its Salt by Water, and treated in the same Manner, gave Forty-three Grains; of which Twenty-nine were sandy Matter; the rest soluble by an Acid.

EXPERIMENT III.

One Pound of Bread added to Spirit of Salt, sufficiently diluted with distilled Water, gave scarce any Precipitation of Earth, by adding a fixt Alkali.

From these and other Chemical Trials, several Times repeated, with Flour and Bread procured in many Parts of *London* and *Westminster*, the Result was nearly the same; except that coarse Flour and Bread contained a few Grains more of earthy Matter. It evidently appears, therefore, that no Frauds were practised in the above Samples.

The Defects of the *London* Bread seem to be owing to the following Causes:

1st. The Use of old Flour in Preference to new; which gives the Bread a less savoury Taste.

2d. The employing *Spunge* instead of Yeast; which generally gives a sour, unpalatable Taste to the Bread.

3d. Not kneading it sufficiently, but, in Place of that Labour, using too great a Quantity of Water; which makes the Bread heavy and unpleasant.

Charles Irving.

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